

LETTERS

FROM

ORINDA

TO

POLIARCHUS.

[Philipps, Mrs. Catherine Fowler.]

The Second Edition,
With ADDITIONS.

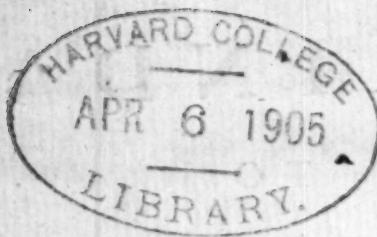


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THE
PREFACE.

TO persuade the
World that what
is here offer'd to
publick View is the genuine
Work of the matchless O-
RINDA, would be an unne-
cessary

cessary Labour in the Publisher, and a nauscous Trouble to the Reader. Any one who has a Nicety of Taste, or Judgment, may easily discern the following Papers to be the real Product of that Pen, which infinitely obliged us with so curious a Variety of Poems, that have themselves an universal Applause; and that her Writings in Prose deserve an equal Reputation, is no vain Conjecture.

jecture. Her Qualifications for writing were as taking as could be desired, since she had the Happiness, in her Composures, to avoid the two Extremes, either of uncorrect Looseness in her Stile, or starch'd Affectation.

The following Letters were the Effect of an happy Intimacy between her self and the late famous POLIAR-CHUS, and are an admirable

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viii *The PREFACE.*

Pattern for the pleasing Correspondence of a virtuous Friendship : They will sufficiently instruct us how an Intercourse of Writing, between Persons of different Sexes, ought to be managed, with Delight and Innocence ; and teach the World, not to load such a Commerce with Censure and Detraction, when 'tis removed at such a distance from even the Appearance of Guilt. Things of this nature,

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ture, coming from so great a Mistress of Thought and Expression as ORINDA, and address'd to so polite a Person as POLIARCHUS, cannot but challenge our Regard, and engage our Esteem.

Tis very unaccountable, when we have such Examples of Excellency among ourselves, that the *French* Writers, in the Epistolary Way, should be so frequently translated by us. Who-
ever

x The PREFACE.

ever reads the ensuing Sheets
carefully, will find more
Sense, Energy and Life here,
than in Volumes of some
very reputed Authors of
theirs: but, we will not any
longer offer an Injury to
the Reader, by keeping him
from the View of that which
will so agreeably entertain
him, and which, when can-
didly examin'd, will make
all Apologies useless.



LETTERS

FROM

Orinda to Poliarchus.

LETTER I.

THO' I know, most honour'd POLIARCHUS, that you delight more in conferring Favours, than in receiving Acknowledgments ; and tho' the highest I could make, would prove

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2 LETTERS from

not only unsuitable to my Obligations, and the sense I have of them; but such as in themselves would stand in need of a new Favour, I mean, your Pardon: Yet I cannot satisfy myself with a total Silence, where I ought to say and do so much, notwithstanding that my own Defects, and the Cruelty of Fate have allow'd me so small a Capacity of acquitting myself of either. I am not ignorant that it will signify but little to tell you, that I am the Person in the world the most deeply sensible of your Favours; and that I wish with no less Passion, than (for ought I perceive) Impossibility, to be in some way able to deserve the least of them: But if you will oblige so like a God, you cannot be surpriz'd, if you find no other Requital than Thanks, and even these too but very imperfect. I beseech you nevertheless to accept mine with the utmost Zeal and Sincerity with which

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 3

which I can return them; and (what will appear a strange Confidence after this ingenuous Confession) to continue me that Friendship, which can alone reward it self in the Nobleness of its own Intentions; and whereto I lay no other Claim than that of your Promise only, which I look on to be a greater Security than an Act of Parliament; as I really esteem the Advantage I reap by it to be a nobler Gift than any that is granted us in *Magna Charta*. I know I run the hazard of losing it, by entertaining you thus long without sending you News from the Person of whom you most desire to hear; but had I not the vast Reason I have to write in my own behalf, yet so great is my Regard for POLIARCHUS, that I am loth to send him any unwelcome News; and indeed, such is CALANTHE's Cruelty, that I have none that will be pleasing to impart. But this is an Affair fitter to

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4 LETTERS from

be discours'd of at more freedom than this distance will allow ; and I have besides some other Reasons that make me wish for an Hour's Conversation with you before I come to Town. To-morrow my Uncle TREVOR promis'd to send Sir EVAN's Horses to bring me to *London* in LUCASIA's Coach ; but till my Brother HECTOR, who is now there, returns, I know not whether I shall accept of that Opportunity. However, if you can be persuaded that it will not be inconvenient for you to take two or three Hours of fresh Air, you will either meet me on the Road, or find me here ; and thus we shall both of us have the Satisfaction Sir ROGER in the Play wanted, of not grieving alone. I am so call'd on to conclude, that I can add no more, but that I am with as much Integrity as infinite Reason, &c.

Acton, 6 Dec.
1661.

ORINDA.

LET-



LETTER II.

THE great Disturbance you were in when you went hence, has given me the unhappy Occasion; and the high and just Concern I have for you, has made me take the Resolution to trouble you with my most humble and earnest Request to resist the Attempts your present Passion is like to make on your Quiet, before it grow too imperious to be check'd by the Powers either of Reason or Friendship. There is nothing more easy than to captivate one's self to Love and Grief; and no more evident Mark of a great Soul than to avoid those Bondages: I hope, therefore, you will not think it altogether unbecoming the Friendship

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you have given me leave to profess for you, to intreat you to overcome those Passions, and not give way to Melancholy, which will unhinge your excellent Temper, and bring so great a Cloud on the Happiness of your Friends, which chiefly depends on your Repose and Conversation. Consider for how many important Interests you are responsible, and exert all the Powers of Reason with which your excellent Judgment abounds, to shake off your Sorrows, and live chearfully and long the Delight of all who have the Honour of your Acquaintance : Of which happy Number, though I am but one of the latest, yet that Misfortune is in some measure abated by so perfect an Esteem for you, that I cannot forbear accosting you with an odd sort of Compliment ; and assure you, that I neither do, nor can honour you one jot the more on account of

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 7

of the many Favours I have receiv'd from you; for the sense I have entertain'd of your Merit cannot be increas'd by any Obligations you can lay upon me. I must indeed acknowledge them with perpetual Blushes, being utterly incapable of deserving the least of them; yet the Regard, Esteem, and Honour I shall ever have for POLIARCHUS, have something more great and noble both for their Cause and Object, I mean, your excellent Constitution of Mind; which I have admir'd in a much greater Proportion than I am capable of comprehending it in; and this it is that has made me take the Resolution of being while I live, &c.

9th Decemb. 1661.

ORINDA.

I am persuaded that I need not desire your Care in concealing your

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having seen any of CALANTHE'S Letters to me; and add this Cau-
tion, lest you should unawares write
any thing to her that might give
her the least Cause to suspect you
have.



I shall be glad to receive your
Answer.

Yours,

LET-

ton. I shall be glad to receive your
Answer.

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LETTER III.

WHAT shall I say, where begin, and when make an end of Acknowledgments? None certainly that can say so little, ever ow'd so much; and I can say yet less, because I am so much oblig'd; for the fulness of my Soul stops up all the Passages of Expression, as a Phial too full hinders its own vent. Thus you are at least rid of one Trouble, I mean, of reading Thanks as insignificant as my former Importunities have been troublesome. However, Sir, what I cannot express, I shall never forget; and I am now going to a Person, who must participate in the Obligation as he does in the Benefit; and who deceives me extremely, if he have

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not conceiv'd so becoming a sense of your Favours, as shall dispose him to hazard the loss of all that by your means has been preserv'd to him (and that is all that can be dear to a Gentleman) rather than let slip the least Opportunity of expressing his Gratitude, whenever his good fortune shall throw it in his way. But I know you delight more in obliging, than in being told of it; and therefore I shall rather suppress my own Inclination, than do any thing that might clash with yours: Permit me only to tell you that we are come safe to Gloucester, where my Uncle gave me hopes that I should have heard from you; but you are in the right to take breath a while from the very remembrance of a Person, who has been so extremely troublesome to you: However, you will not be able to enjoy that Repose long; for your own generous Promise, and my importunate claiming it, will

will force you to afford some of those Minutes, which are so dear to yourself, and useful to the World, to oblige me in my Hermitage with the assurance that I am, in spight of all your Reasons to the contrary, continu'd in your Friendship. I know that to be a bold Expression, but as nothing less could have produc'd such Testimony of your Concern for me as I have already receiv'd, so too nothing less shall satisfy me for the future. I hope my Brother PHILIPS has waited on you before now, with an account of the Affair we were discoursing of concerning WISTON; wherein I heartily wish you as much Success, as I had in mine that was more doubtful, and that it were in my power to contribute to this as much as you did to that. I confess there is more of Selfishness in this Desire than becomes your Friend, since I own myself inclin'd to wish it the more eagerly, because it flatters me with

LETTERS from

a possibility of seeing you in a place, where I may, in a more becoming manner than hitherto I have been able, tho' after all very unsuitably to your Merit and my Obligements, express the great Satisfaction I take in the Enjoyment of your Conversation. Be pleas'd to keep me alive in the Memory of all our Friends, but chiefly in your own, which is an Estate that shall ever be most highly priz'd by

Gloucester, 6 Mar.
1662.

Yours, &c.

ORINDA.



LET-



LETTER IV.

I Had the Honour of receiving your Letter as soon as I came to my own House ; and, after all the Preparation you were pleas'd to give me, I had the patience to read the *English*, and the pleasure to read the *French* Present you sent me ; and, to observe your Method, will treat of the first first ; and tell you, that I am extremely pleas'd with your ingenious Contrivance in making a Person, who stands in so much need of your Pardon, be once in a Capacity of forgiving you ; and by thus abusing me, putting it to the Trial, whether I have profited by the Example of your Generosity : Yes Sir, I have, and much more freely forgive your sending me the *English*, than your interlining

terlining the *French Paper*, which I take as the far greater Affront. But the Disappointment of the Expectation you first rais'd, and the being put out of countenance afterwards, are not difficult to be supported from you, who have heap'd so many Favours on me, that your very Injuries are obliging. But you will expect I should give you my Thoughts of your Present. I had not read the *English* half through, but I was ready to say of it as *LUCASIA* did t'other day of a Harper, who play'd horridly out of Tune, *Will not this honest Man go to Dinner?* Which all the Company agreed to be the most civil way of turning him out of the Room that ever he had met with. I verily believe there are some deep Philosophical Notions in it, and without doubt the Gentleman Colonel *PHILIPS* told us of, who had reduc'd all Divinity to Demonstration, and pretended to solve all

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Controversies in a quarter of an hour, was near a-kin to this Author ; but I, you know very well, have been of late so tormented with Disputes on that Subject, that I fairly threw it by, to consider the Countess of SUZA's Elegy, which is indeed one of the finest Poems of that nature I ever read ; the Thoughts are great and noble, and represent to the Life the vastness of her excellent Soul ; the Language is pure, and hardly to be parallell'd. I return you many Thanks for it ; and assure you I will always keep it with a Value worthy of the Author, who must needs be an extraordinary Woman, and of the Sender, who is to me above all the Flights of Panegyrick. I found my ANTENOR so full of the sense of your Goodness towards him, that in the midst of his Satisfactions it gave him no small disquiet to consider, that he should never be able by any Action of his Life to express his infinite

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infinite Gratitude for the Care you were pleas'd to take of his Concerns ; and indeed I my self am blushing to give you these empty Returns for so many substantial Kindnesses. I would avoid them had I any other way to gain your belief, how much he and I would do and suffer to convince you of the thousandth part of the immense Esteem and Honour we have for you. But how, POLIARCHUS, can you be so infinitely good, as to tell me you miss my Company ? Are you in need of the Mortifications you receiv'd by it ? They may indeed be proper for this holy time of *Lent* ; otherwise the not being oblig'd to go every day to the *Lobby* before seven in the Morning, the Enjoyment of your more deserving Friends at Evenings, and conversing with your Books ; the not being almost under a necessity of going abroad in all Weathers to a Dog-hole, to find one who gave

gave you nothing but Importunity and Disturbance, and robb'd you of your Quiet, must needs have afforded you more real Satisfactions. But indeed, Sir, no ordinary Reasons could have prevail'd with me to permit your undergoing so many Hardships on my account ; and but that the neglect of my Duty to ANTENOR would have render'd me more unworthy of your Esteem, I could never have prevail'd with my self to have given you so great and so frequent Troubles in his behalf. I find LUCASIA here, notwithstanding all her Threatnings to be gone ; but she has stay'd for me so long, that she has but very little time left to stay with me. I deliver'd her your Letter and Present, which she was much out of countenance to receive ; having, as she says herself, been already so often and so much oblig'd both on her own account and mine. I assur'd her likewise of what you command'd me, and believe she will give you

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you an Answer of it herself. This was our Post-day from *London*, and I have Letters from several Hands, but none from you, which troubles me on a double account; first, for want of the Satisfaction it would have been to hear from you; and then for fear your Silence was occasion'd by the Disturbance you are in for the Loss of my Lady CORNBURY, whose Death is here much lamented. But I will say no more at present, lest my Letters should be as troublesome to you as my personal Conversation, and discourage you from allowing me the Honour of your Correspondence, which I beg of you to believe shall ever be valu'd above all Expression by, &c.

Cardigan Priory,

Mar. 18. 1665.

ORINDA.

LET-

LETTER V.

THIS now *Good-Friday*, and a Scruple of Conscience has seiz'd me, whether in a time of so enjoin'd a Penance, I ought to give myself so much Satisfaction as to write to you; but since I had the Honour of receiving a Letter from you last Post, I must have the Justice to acknowledge it this; and besides, to confess the Truth, there is so much got by your Correspondence, and mine is so troublesome to every one, that I dare not omit a Post, lest I should give you that just Occasion of avoiding to oblige me the next. You see Interest governs me as well as all the World; and if it did not, I perceive so much of it in the carrying on of an Affair, wherein a Friend of ours is nearly

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concern'd, that it cannot be expected I should scape the Infection. A Relation of mine, who had travell'd in foreign Countries, was often wont to say, *Interesse è tutto il Mondo, e così son io, All the World is made up of Interest, and so am I.* But I own I cannot find in my heart to repent of mine, while it has in view so great an Advantage as your Conversation, which deserves to be coveted upon the most rigid Terms that can be propos'd; how much more then upon those you are pleas'd to offer, of declining Compliments, which as I am very unable to make, so the best of them would fall very short of the Obligation you have laid upon me, and of the Esteem I shall ever have for you! And to give you a convincing Proof that I intend to banish all Ceremony, I will frankly tell you, that you should not get rid of me at this time upon so easy Terms as you do; but that the Intentions I have

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have for next *Sunday* take me off from enlarging now. This, I know, will procure Pardon at your hands for my breach of Promise (or Threatning shall I call it!) in my last, that you should have a Relation at large of the Affair you know of, from, &c.

ORINDA.

LET.



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LETTER VI

YOURS, most generous POLI-
ARCHUS, I receiv'd with a Joy
that such a Happiness claims from
every body ; and so much the more
from me than from the rest of the
World, by how much I deserve it
less. But 'tis in some measure a
Justice in you to afford me your
Correspondence, since without it
the great Advantages I reap'd in con-
versing with you would have been
injurious to me, in rendring me
dissatisfy'd with my present condi-
tion ; and I could never, without the
Relief your Letters bring me, have
been able to reconcile my self to a
place which deprives me of so desi-
rable a Conversation as yours : Nor
could my beloved Rocks and Rivers,
which were formerly my best En-
tertain-

tertainments, have given me any Satisfaction without hearing from you. But now I can much better content my self in that Solitude, which you are so generously pleas'd to sweeten, by assuring me that I have still so considerable a share in your Friendship, in spight of all my Occasions of tiring it, and all my Incapacities of deserving it. I most humbly thank you for all your News, and for your *Italian Postscript*, which I perfectly understand, but am not yet able to answer you in that Tongue; in time I may, and till then be pleas'd to make use of it in whatever you intend should be private; for if I should be importun'd by CALANTHE or the Uncle, to shew your Letters, I might then explain them as I thought fit. I writ something to you in *French* concerning her, and if I could tell you all that pass'd between her and me, I should make you at once smile, frown, and wonder.

der. For would it not indeed produce all those different Effects to see a Person of Discretion industriously put on needless Fetters to a Relation, and then play with them as Ornaments ; nay, take it heinously, if every one does not wink at it ? To convince you that CALANTHE did almost downright beg me to countenance what she intended, I must tell you, that tho' I had always spoken as respectfully as I could of the Person of MEMNON, yet when I told her the Story of the Countess, that pretended I was to have a thousand Pounds for speaking in his behalf, she with a scornful Smile reply'd, *And you deserve it largely, for you speak extremely for him.* Imagine, Sir, how I was surpriz'd to hear this from her ; however I told her, *That a thousand Worlds could not bribe me to speak for him, if I thought it not for her good.* *Think you so ?* says she : Upon which I told her, *she was the best Judge.*

I look on him, she then reply'd, to be a very honest Man, and believe you to have such Obligations to him, that you ought in Gratitude to do more for him than you do. I answer'd, that if I were so mercenary as to speak for them that had most oblig'd me, there are others in whose behalf I ought likewise to employ my Rhetorick. At this she blush'd for madness, and would not answer me a word; and so we parted, both of us vex'd and angry enough. We have several times since been talking of the same Affair, and she constantly tells me, that she has more Inclination to him than to all the rest of Mankind, but that she cannot persuade herself to be a Mother-in-law. And she is always reproaching me with my Indifference and little Care of what becomes of her, since I have left off speaking to her in MEMNON's behalf. I told her, *I did not approve her Uncle's persecuting her as he did, and therefore would not be guilty of*

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the like Opportunity myself. She answer'd, *I know not whether he has persecuted you, but I am sure he has not done so to me.* I reply'd, *that I must be both blind and deaf to believe what she told me.* This put her again into a Passion ; and, in short, I know not how to behave myself any longer towards her in that Affair, without creating Uneasinesses both to her and myself. Next Week, if Health and Weather permit, ANTENOR and I shall go to *Landshipping*, and there I shall find some Opportunity of letting you know how Matters go on, and will continue to give you Troubles of this kind, till either your Commands to the contrary, or your Silence forbid me, which I hope neither of them ever will ; tho' it looks as if I pretended a Privilege to torment you, and were resolv'd, that you should not have so much as a breathing-time allow'd you by, &c.

Priory of Cardigan,

5 April 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER VII.

THE *English* Copy you sent me in Company of *Madam de Suza*'s Elegy is a Debt that has ever since been burthensome to my Conscience: for 'tis my Principle to pay what I can; and tho' I owe you so much, that Insolvency must ever be my Plea, yet I am desirous to give you some proof that my Intentions are honest, and that I would quit scores with you if I could. To this end I have search'd my Cabinet for some Present to return you by way of Gratitude for yours; and that I might do it the more generously, I have found this private Hand to convey it to you; for 'tis in my opinion unjust to make the Receiver pay for the Carriage of a Token. *The Apology for Women* is so obliging to our Sex,

that I could do no less than send it to POLIARCHUS, who has so great a Value for us; and, I doubt not, will have a particular Regard for this Paper, when he knows the Author of it to be the same that has been pleas'd to bestow the Favour of so many Corrections upon Mr. BAGSHAW; and when you have perus'd it, I believe 'twill be difficult for you to determine, whether Women or Presbyterians owe Mr. L'ESTRANGE the greater Veneration. But if you will have my Opinion in this Affair, we are more oblig'd to him than they, because he bestows more of his Wit upon us, and commends us implicitly for a Virtue, of which I am confident he never felt the Effects; for I am perswaded no Woman was ever kind enough to him, to give him reason to tax her with Inconstancy: but if there have been such a PHOENIX, I think she richly deserves this his Acknowledgment. The other Paper, you will find, expounds it self, and

and will very much disappoint me if it does not make you smile ; but when it has done that service, pray keep it from doing the like to any body else ; for such are my Respects for your Neighbour my Lady ASHTON, that I would not have her think that I expose any thing of her Brother's, especially when 'twas, as you see, design'd to express so high an Esteem for me. The Bearer will let me say no more, and between me and my two Authors, I fear I have already said enough to need a greater Pardon than I will ever beg from a Person who allows me the Honour of subscribing myself, &c.

April 8. 1662.

ORTINDA.

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LETTER VIII.

I Gave you so tedious a Trouble in my last, that I ought to make you some amends by the Shortness of this; and therefore shall only thank you for the Care you take to improve me in the *Italian*, by writing to me in that Language: I understood all your Letter at first sight; and immediately set myself to read *Gli Mascherati*, and went thro' it likewise without any hesitation; so that I now despair of no Prose, but find I am but half-knowing in that Tongue, till I can master the Verse too, and that is my present Study. In your next pray send me the two Songs you once gave me: One begins thus, *E ne piu brami*; the other is call'd, *il Nocchiere errante*. I have lost the Book in which

I had written them, and they were extremely pleasing to me on more scores than one. And now I am on this Subject, I must be so civil as to thank you for your Promise concerning *Le Bureau d'Addresse* and *Les Commentaires Royaux*. Believe me, I had grace enough to blush when I read it, having been oblig'd in that kind to such an Excess already, that I know not with what Face to receive, much less to beg any more Favours of that nature from you. I am now at *Landshipping* with LUCASIA, who desires you to believe she is much your Servant, and thanks you for your last Favour, which I believe she will answser when a piece of Needle-work, to which she is now wholly devoted, will give her leave: But I shall be as tiresome to you with this Dulness, as she is to me with that Im- ployment. I say nothing now concerning the Election, having enlarg'd so much on that Subject in my last; only this, 'twill either be determin'd

in two or three days, or (which I rather wish) delay'd till next Session; for **ANTENOR**'s Witnesses having been so lately at *London* eight Weeks to no purpose, were not willing to come again till they heard there was a necessity for it; and my Brother **PHILIPS** has writ word, that you were of opinion their Journey might be spar'd: But now I hear the Adjournment is uncertain, which puts me into an Alarm concerning the Event of our Business, none of the Witnesses on our side being in Town. **ANTENOR** was not summon'd till *Thursday* noon last, and certainly that is scarce timely Notice to send Witnesses two hundred Miles by this day seven-night. But since the Cause is just, and you will espouse it, the Success shall never be despair'd of by, &c.

April 12. 1662.

ORINDA.

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LETTER IX.

YOU see, most generous POLI-
ARCHUS, that your repeated
Commands have at length compell'd
a very melancholy Muse to appear
in a more chearful Dress than she
usually wears; and tho' you will
find by the Unhappiness of the Ex-
pressions in the enclos'd Copy of
Verses, that the Muses have been
as unkind to me, as the Committee
of Privileges were to ANTENOR; yet
I am resolv'd to give you this Testi-
mony, that I can deny you nothing
in my power, since I thus expose
my Frailties to you. I confess much
of the Gallantry of that Action is
abated by the Knowledge I have to
whom I send this Poem; and that
you are so much my Friend, that it
shall not be seen at Court, till you
have

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have first put it in a better Dress, which I know you will do, if it be capable of Improvement; if it be not, commit it to the Flames, with this assurance, that 'twas want of Power, not of Will, that prevented you from being better regal'd. If it passes your Judgment in any degree, let me have your Remarks upon it, and I will correct it by them, and send the Dutchess another Copy, in obedience to the Commands she was pleas'd to lay upon me, that I should let her see all my Trifles of this nature. I have been told, that when her Highness saw my Elegy on the Queen of *Bohemia*, she graciously said, it surpriz'd her. The Post is just upon going, otherwise this Paper should be fill'd with a certain Subject that would please me if not you. I can only add that we wanted your Presence at our Hearing on *Tuesday* was seven-night; for had our Affair been impartially heard by the Committee, 'tis impossible

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possible we should have been so severely handled. I hope we shall find more Justice from the House when the Report comes to be made: If your Affairs will permit you to be in Town, I cannot question it. The happy Lover is come hither this day. LUCASIA and ANTENOR are your humble Servants, and so is likewise more than all the World besides,

Landshipping,
May 3. 1662.

Your faithful Valentine,

ORINDA.

LET.



LETTER X.

I have deferr'd writing a Post longer than I ought, that you might first receive from other Hands the News this Letter brings you, that so it might be no News to you; for tho' I know you have long expected, and prepar'd your self for the Blow; yet I am so well acquainted with the Temper of your Soul, as to have cause to believe, that you have still so much left in *you of the Lover, or at least of the Friend*, that you cannot hear of LUCASIA's being marry'd without some disturbance; which will, I fear, be increas'd, when you know that her going to *Ireland* is so hasten'd, that she will, I believe, be there in three Weeks. I thought to have given you a large Account how

how this Affair came to be spurr'd on so fast, but have not time to tell you any thing now, only that the Opportunity of Sir THOMAS HAMMER and his Lady, join'd to the pressing Instances of her other Relations here, compell'd her in a manner to a Hurry, which I dare say she her self never intended; and thus on *Sunday* last the Ceremony was perform'd to the great Satisfaction of them all: *For I alone of all the Company was out of humour; nay, I was vex'd to that degree, that I could not disguise my Concern, which many of them were surpriz'd to see, and spoke to me of it; but my Grief was too deeply rooted to be cur'd with Words.* Believe me, dear POLIARCHUS, *I have wept so much, that my Eyes almost refuse me this present Service: But I will say no more of it now.* I am resolv'd to write each Circumstance of this Affair to our Friend ROSANIA, from whom you shall know all, and therefore pray defer

fer your Curiosity till then. I never wish'd my self so much a Philosopher as now, that I might be in a Temper sedate enough to say any thing that might in some measure alleviate your Griefs: But indeed, POLIARCHUS, I am so afflicted my self, that 'twould be in vain for me to offer at the Comfort of another. As for your Share in this Loss, I hope you prepar'd your self much better to receive it, than I did to suffer mine: *Sono ben altri infelici nell' amore:* And I know you are too wise to need any Consolation from any but your self, and that you had laid in a Stock of Patience before-hand. Had I done so too, I had sav'd my self much Disquiet; yet when I reflect that all our Regret in this Case is in vain, I begin to be a little satisfy'd, and often repeat to myself these words of Dr. HAMMOND, *When will you begin to trust God, and permit him to govern the World?* You have allow'd my Loss to be greater than

than your own, and therefore I will expect that Consolation from you, that I am unable to give my self, or you any other way, than by putting you in mind, that I am much more unfortunate than you. As for LUCASTA, why should we be more concern'd for her than she is for her self, or than her nearest Relations? I am now taught by Experience, that 'tis a very thankless Office, to have too much Regard for the Interest of our Friends, when they themselves have a mind to wave it; and we must say of this, as of other Providences,

*Che le Cose del Ciel sol colui vede,
Chi serra gli Occhi, e crede.*

Let us do so on this account, and believe that so sweet a Creature cannot be injur'd by any thing that has the least sense of Humanity, nor so much Piety as hers be forsaken by the Divine Providence. May she ever

ever be as happy, as I am other-wise, and as free from all Trouble and Grief, as she soon will be from the sight of mine. I can say no more, my Time is so little and my Grief so great; but whithersoever that transports me, tho' even to my Grave, I beseech you get the Victory over yours, and be assur'd that I am to my last Gasp, &c.

Landshipping,
May 17. 1662.

ORINDA.



LETTER

LETTER XI.

A bout a Fortnight ago I acquainted you that LUCASIA was marry'd, and had taken a sudden Resolution to be going for *Ireland*; since that I have received a Letter from you dated at *Portsmouth*, giving me the full Relation of the Queen's Arrival; which you have so wonderfully describ'd in Prose, that I doubt very much whether it can be equall'd by any of our Poets in Verse. I thank you for it, and for the Care you take to improve me in the *Italian*, which I am the more assiduous in, because you first encourag'd me to undertake it. But I must now inform you where I am, and upon what score I am here. That I am at a Place called *Pigfarred*, the Date of my

42 LETTERS from

my Letter informs you; and the Reason of my being here will be no Mystery to you, who are no Stranger to the great Friendship I have for the Princess CALANTHE, which render'd it impossible for me to let her cross the Seas into a foreign Kingdom without my Company: Even ANTENOR himself was of opinion, that in regard of the long Intimacy that had been between us, I could do no less than see her safe to her Husband's House; and I myself was very desirous to share with her in all the Hazards of the Voyage, and to see the Places and Persons where and with whom she is now to live and converse; all which the Doctor and some other of MEMNON's Relations had extoll'd to the very Skies. And this I was the rather inclin'd to do, being convinc'd that it would contribute very much to my Quiet to know where and with whom she was to spend the Remainder of her Days. The Passage of

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the Sea is not in the least dreadful to my Apprehension, since it is for the Love of her that I undertake the Danger. When I have tarry'd there a while, I shall return home with a heavy Heart ; but with the Satisfaction nevertheless, that I have discharg'd my Duty to my Friend, whose Loss I shall eternally regret. I am continually thinking of what BRENNORALT says in the Play, I will deserve her, tho' I never gain her. There is a secret Pleasure in doing one's duty. I have written a long Letter of all the Particulars of this Marriage to our fair Friend ROSANIA, and desir'd her to communicate it to you, so that of her you may be inform'd of all the Circumstances more at large than I can now tell you. I see no Alteration either in her Husband's Humour or Mien, but in my opinion he behaves himself more despotically towards her than becomes him. But all this is under the Rose, and I would have kept it to my self, did

did I not repose an entire Confidence in you ; for 'tis too late now for us to find faults ; the Business is over, and we must be satisfy'd, and for her sake, who will be eternally dear to us, put the best Face on every thing. She pretends to be the most satisfy'd Creature in the World, and is very much concern'd when she sees me melancholy. She tells all of us she is extremely happy, and that all that love her ought to take part in her Happiness. Pray write to me by the next Post to Dublin, where, if we have a safe Passage over Sea, we shall be by the beginning of next Week, for we are to set sail the last day of this. If you have written any thing to me to Cardigan relating to this Affair, pray write it again to me to Dublin in Italian ; for I know not when I shall receive the Letters that will come to Cardigan the latter end of this Week, and I am very desirous to know your Thoughts of this Matter ;

ter ; that since I cannot bring Relief to your Sorrows , I may at least share them with you. But I am talking to you, as if you were a Person of as little Virtue and Resolution as my self. No, POLIARCHUS, I doubt not but you have more of the Philosopher in you, than to suffer your self to be twice overcome by the same Passion. Leave then the unavailing Sighs, Complaints, and Tears to me, who am of the tender Sex, and press'd with such a load of Sorrows, that I despair of ever finding Relief. Were you still a Lover, which you are not, I grieve enough at this Severity of Fate, both for my self and you : The chiefest Comfort I have left is to converse with you. Send me word what the Town and Court say of this Marriage, and when I come to Dublin, I will in return write you something that shall make you smile. LUCASIA is still very much your Servant ; and I am

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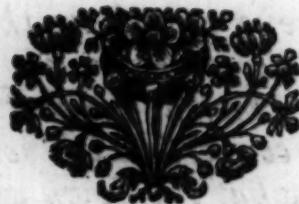
46 LETTERS from

confident you are so fully persua-
ded of my Esteem for you, that
you will never require an Oath to
prove that Article; for while I am
any thing, I must be, &c.

Pigfarred [Lucasia's House]

June 4. 1662.

ORINDA.



LET-

LETTER XII.

IF your Silence this Week was intended to exempt you from the Persecution of my Scribble, you see your Design has miscarry'd; and you may believe, that not to let me hear from you as I expect, is a certain way to provoke me to beg of you not to discontinue me the Favour of your Correspondence; of which I know my self to be so unworthy, that every little Omission on your part, alarms me with the Apprehension of having utterly lost it. I am sure you are too generous to alter your Thoughts of me, however I may have been represented to you; especially till you have better Proofs than the bare Assertion of one, who could know so little of that Affair; and

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I dare promise you, that even CALANTHE herself would acquit me of that Imputation: For she hugs her self so much in her Choice, that she will not suffer even the Doctor to have any share in the Glory of having contributed to it; much more therefore will she exclude me, who am far from laying claim to any: I am very content that it should be wholly attributed to herself and her Uncle, and will never rob them of the Reputation they are like to gain by it. If you are satisfy'd with my proceeding in that Affair, as you have assur'd me you are, I look on my self to be happier than they. But I will tell you something to make you laugh: The Doctor is not so fortunate in his Amours as his Friend, for his Mistress has absolutely refus'd him; and the Jest of it is, she fed him with vain Hopes till she saw her Complaisance was no longer needful for her Uncle's Service, and then on a sudden she grew

grew so proud and scornful, that he is not a little mortify'd at it. She publickly declares that he has not Estate enough, that he is of a Humour very disagreeable, and that she can never like him : Besides, she says and does a thousand disobliging things to him, and carries her self in so haughty a manner, that I have often wish'd you here, that you might at least have the pleasure of this small Revenge. In short, after all the noise has been made about it, I take the Match to be quite broken off. And so much for that. I would now say something in answer to your Italian, but I have neither Time nor Opportunity ; for a certain Person is very jealous of what passes between us, and watches me close : But in a word, I believe the Husband to be of a Humour stubborn and surly enough ; yet to speak sincerely, I have not hitherto perceiv'd the Marks of any Ill-Nature towards her ; and

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30 LETTERS from

indeed who could be barbarous or cruel to a Person of so sweet a Temper and so much Merit, and who has made a Sacrifice of her self and all her Thoughts to his Will and Pleasure? The Country hereabouts is very like *Wales*, I mean the most barren parts of it, that are hilly, and near the Sea. There is very little Wood, and the Prospect not in the least pleasant. The House is indifferent, and that's all; for 'tis but very ordinary for a Person of his Quality, and she deserves a better. There is but little Conversation, and that too none of the best: But in the Town the Buildings and Company are something better. Pray let me know whether *Rosania* be living or not; for but that you and *PHILASTER* have made mention of her, I should have no reason to think she is, not having heard from her since I came into *Ireland*, which is no small Affliction to me.

Next
Week

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 51

Week we go to *Dublin*, and I shall soon after return to *Wales*; but before that you will receive more Troubles of this nature from, &c.

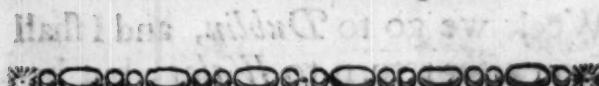
Rofreror, July

19. 1662.

ORINDA.



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LETTER XIII.

I Received yours of the twelfth after I had written my last, which will be with you before *Sunday* next; and then you will acquit me of my Promise to make you smile, for I am confident you will laugh heartily; and I give you leave to make my Brother PHILIPS, CIMENA and ROSANIA Sharers in your Mirth; particularly ROSANTA, to whom you are bound in Justice to give some part of your Diversion; for she tells me you have infected her with your Sighs, for which I could chide you with as good a Grace as the Gentleman that curs'd his Servant for swearing, but that I am so much oblig'd for the share you take in my Trouble, that I hasten to thank you for it, and endeavour all I can to fol-

follow your Advice, and compose my outward Shew to much more Content and Satisfaction than I feel within: Hoping that in time either Reason or Resentment will cure me of my Passion for the Conversation of a Person, who has so studiously contriv'd my losing it.. I now see by Experience that one may love too much, and offend more by a too fond Sincerity, than by a careless Indifferency, provided it be but handsomly varnish'd over with civil Respect. I find too there are few Friendships in the World Marriage-proof; especially when the Person our Friend marries has not a Soul particularly capable of the Tenderness of that Endearment, and so solicitous of advancing the noble Instances of it, as a Pleasure of their own, in others as well as themselves: And such a Temper is so rarely found, that we may generally conclude the Marriage of a Friend to be the Funeral of a Friendship; for then all

former Endearments run naturally into the Gulf of that new and strict Relation, and there, like Rivers in the Sea, they lose themselves for ever. This is indeed a lamentable Truth, and I have often study'd to find a Reason for it. Sometimes I think it is because we are in truth more ill-natur'd than we really take our selves to be ; and more forgetful of the past Offices of Friendship, when they are superseded by others of a fresher Date, which carrying with them the Plausibility of more Duty and Religion in the Knot that ties them, we persuade our selves will excuse us if the Heat and Zeal of our former Friendships decline and wear off into Lukewarmness and Indifferency : whereas there is indeed a certain secret Meanness in our Souls, which mercenarily inclines our Affections to those with whom we must necessarily be oblig'd for the most part to converse, and from whom we expect the chiefest outward

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Conveniencies. And thus we are apt to flatter our selves that we are constant and unchang'd in our Friendship, tho' we insensibly fall into Coldness and Estrangement ; but will not believe it, because we know 'tis ungenerous and base. And thus it is that the thing call'd Friendship, without which the whole Earth would be but a Desart, and Man still alone, tho' in Company, grows sick and languishes, and *Love once sick, how quickly will it die?* But enough of these Speculations. I find there is nothing impossible in this World but for me to grow wise : Yet after all, I had rather lose CALANTHE, as I lose her, than gain her as Mr. Doctor has gain'd her Company. I have a hundred things to say, would this stolen Minute permit : But I shall soon be in a place where I shall have sad Reason to be free from the Fear I am now in, lest she should surprize me, and find what would not please her ; tho' I take Heaven

to witness, I would neither do, nor say, nor think any thing in her disparagement, much less that would injure her, for the Empire of the whole World. PHILASTER is with us, and assures you that his sense of your Favours and Respects for you, can neither be drown'd in an *Irish* Mist, nor lost in a Bog. He is no better pleas'd with CALANTHE's Change of Condition than my self. CIMENA hears from him, and by that means you may have a better account of the Husband's Behaviour to his Wife, of his Humours and Way of Life than I can now send you. *I believe indeed that he loves her very well, but he carries himself to her with such an Air of Sovereignty, and in my Opinion so silly and clownish withal, that I am much surpriz'd that she, who is so well-bred, and her Conversation every way so agreeable, can be so happy with him as she seems to be: for indeed she is nothing but Joy, and never so well pleas'd*

pleas'd as in his Company ; which makes me conclude, that she is either extremely chang'd, or has more of the dissembling Cunning of our Sex than I thought she had. I have just now receiv'd the Letter you directed to me at *Cardigan*, wherein you give me an account of their Majesties great Goodness to me, for which I return you many Thanks, and particularly for the Alterations you made in the Poem ; which I look on as a greater Proof of your Friendship, than all the undue Praises you give me. But by this time I have certainly tir'd you, unless you are resolv'd that nothing shall do so from, &c.

Dublin, July
30. 1662.

ORINDA.

Ps. LET-

LETTER XIV.

YOU say true, POLIARCHUS, I cannot be in a fit Humour to write any thing in Verse at a time when I expect each hour to be separated from my ever dear LUCASIA. A Blow for which you prepare me with so much Kindness and so excellent a Discourse, that I must needs bear it with greater Resolution, or be very undeserving of the Assistance you give me. I am indeed of your Opinion, and could never govern my Passions by the Lessons of the Stoicks, who at best rather tell us what we should be, than teach us how to be so; they shew the Journey's end, but leave us to get thither as we can. I would be easy to my self in all the Vicissitudes of Fortune, and SENECA tells me I ought to

to be so, and that 'tis the only way to be happy ; but I knew that as well as the Stoick. I would not depend on others for my Felicity ; and EPICETUS says, if I do not, nothing shall trouble me. I have a great Veneration for these Philosophers, and allow they give us many Instructions that I find applicable and true ; but as far as I can see, the Art of Contentment is as little to be learn'd, tho' it be much boasted of, in the Works of the Heathens, as the Doctrine of forgiving our Enemies. 'Tis the School of Christianity that teaches both these excellent Lessons. And as the Theory of our Religion gives us reason to conform and resign our Will to that of the Eternal, who is infinitely Wise, and Just, and Great, and Good ; so the Practice of our Duty, tho' in the most difficult Cases, gives us a secret Satisfaction, that surpasses all other earthly Pleasures : And when we have once had the Experiment of it,

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we may truly say the Poet was in the right to exhort us to study Virtue, because the more we practise it, 'twill prove the more pleasant, more easy, and more worthy of Love. But of this in a little time more at large, when I shall have greater cause, and too much leisure for such Reflections. I will now inform you of my Adventures here. My good Fortune has favour'd me with the Acquaintance of my Lord ORRERY : He is indeed a Man of great Parts, and agreeable Conversation ; and has been so extremely civil to me, that were he not a most obliging Person, I am sure he could not excuse it to his own Judgment. By some Accident or another my Scene of POMPEY fell into his hands, and he was pleas'd to like it so well, that he sent me the *French* Original ; and the next time I saw him, so earnestly importun'd me to pursue that Translation, that to avoid the Shame of seeing him who had so lately commanded

a Kingdom, become a Petitioner to me for such a Trifle, I obey'd him so far as to finish the Act in which that Scene is; so that the whole third Act is now *English*. This I the rather did, hoping to undeceive him in the partial Opinion he had of my Capacity for such an Undertaking; and not doubting but he would have dispens'd with my farther Trouble therein. But he no sooner had it, than (I think to punish me for having done it so ill) he enjoin'd me to go on; and not only so, but brib'd me to be contented with the Pains, by sending me an excellent Copy of Verses, which, were I not conscious of my own Unworthiness, would make me rather forget the Subject, than disbelieve the Compliments of his Lordship's Muse. But I have undergone as great a Temptation to Vanity from your Tongue and Pen, as he can give me; and yet I hope neither of you shall ever make me for-

forget my self so much, as to take pride in any thing, but the having POLIARCHUS for my Friend. I will by my next send you my Lord's Verses, on condition that in exchange you will let me have a Copy of your Translation of *Le Temple de la Mort*; his Lordship is in love with the Original, and you will infinitely oblige me in putting it in my power to shew him your excellent Version of it. To bribe you yet farther, I will send you mine of POMPEY as fast as I do it; and because this is no great Temptation, I will send you some Translations from VIRGIL by Mr. COWLEY. You will wonder at my Lord's Obstinacy in this Desire to have me translate POMPEY, as well because of my Incapacity to perform it, as that so many others have undertaken it: But all I can say or do is to no purpose; for he persists in his Request, and will not be refus'd. The best on't is, that having sent him one Act

already, I will take day enough for the rest. But I have weary'd you as much with this Story, as he has me with Commands which I am so unable to perform. He knows you, for he speaks of you with a great deal of Honour and Esteem, and therein, much more than by all his Compliments to me, has not only discover'd his Judgment, but ob-

Dublin, August

20. 1662.

ORINDA.

LET

LETTER XV.

I Will always rather chuse to think it proceeds from my own Misfortune, than from your Forgetfulness of me, whenever I am disappointed in my Expectation of receiving a Letter from you; for could I believe you desirous to put an end to the Correspondence, which I desire so much, I should in Civility forbear extorting it in this importunate manner; and so contribute to a Loss, which I am most unwilling to undergo: When therefore you would be rid of these Troubles, you must downright tell me so, since you see I cannot be brought to understand it by all the Signs your Silence can make. 'Tis true, one Letter of yours is worth whole Volumes of mine, and yet I do not write every

every Post, lest that should deter you from those obliging Returns, that are my only Design in Writing. But if either my Thoughts or Observation could produce any thing worthy your Perusal, I would write to you twice a day if I could ; from whence you may be assur'd, I would not omit writing as often as I can, which is now twice a Week, but that I want matter fit to entertain you ; and I might very justly plead this in Excuse of Silence at this time, had not PHILASTER copy'd my Lord ORERRY's Verses, I told you of in my last, and desir'd me to send them you as his Present ; which I the rather do, to make you some amends for the many ill ones I have troubled you with, and to let you see how perfect a Poet my Lord is, who writes with so much Elegancy on so undeserving a Subject : For Fiction, you know, is the proper Employment of the Muses. Let me have your Opinion of them, which, if you

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you send it the next Post after you receive this, may find me here; but much longer, I think, I shall not stay. Above all, forget not my Request for your *Temple of Death*. And now I speak of that Poem, what progress have you made in your Translation from the *Spanish*? Which I very much desire to see; but not so much as I do, that it may one day be my good Fortune to see the Translator, whose faithful Friend and humble Servant I must be while I am ORINDA, or any thing that Name signifies.

Dublin, August

30. 1662.



LET.

LETTER XVI.

I Am very much oblig'd by the Care you take to lay hold of the Opportunity I seldom give you, to assure me that my Silence should not create yours. I know I am not able to say any thing that can deserve your reading, much less answering; and by consequence am conscious how unworthy I am of your Correspondence, and that I can no way deserve it but by downright Importance. You may therefore be as sur'd that it must be something very extraordinary that can exempt you from the frequent Trouble of my Letters. But had I as much Sense and good Language as I ought to have, to deserve so much of yours; yet I should never be able duly to

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68 LETTERS from

acknowledge the Kindness of your last Letter, which has oblig'd me, as my Lord of ORERRY says the King did his People by the Act of Oblivion, *both in the Manner and the Action too.* But my best way to express my Gratitude for all your Favours, is to confess them as much above it, as your Method of conferring them exceeds that of all other Men; and that all your Actions are so generous, and accompany'd with such obliging Circumstances, that they are no more to be requited than forgotten. Your Description of the Queen's Entrance is as lively, as that seems to have been glorious. In return of your Presbyterian News, I will tell you that last *Sunday* Mr. BAGSHAW held a Conventicle in my Lord ANGLESEY's Lodgings, where the Saints brought Tickets for their Entrance as they do at the Play-house; but the Guards were sent with Orders to disperse them, and bring the Holderforth

forth before the Mayor, as also to take the Names of the Congregations; however, this hinder'd not many of them from meeting to the same purpose in the Afternoon. Some Force, they say, was us'd at the Stable-Door, which my Lord ANGLESEY resented, and desir'd to know, if his Horses were Non-conformists: How he will farther digest this Pill, is not yet known. I am now almost certain that I shall not be so happy as to see you at *London* this Winter, for I shall scarce reach home before the depth of it. As soon as a day is fix'd for my going hence, you shall have notice of it. LUCASIA, PHILASTER, and all the rest of your Friends here are much your humble Servants, but none of them in an equal Degree to, &c.

Dublin, Sept.

6. 1662.

ORINDA.

LET-

LETTER XVII.

I Could not let slip this Opportunity of saluting POLIARCHUS without putting him to any greater Expence to receive it, than all that in my whole Life I am ever like to pay him is worth. And I should in good earnest be much out of countenance to give you so frequent Occasions of paying for nothing, did not your Commands and Acceptance encourage and justify that Presumption. I have ever thought you excellent since I had any Knowledge of you, but not so much on account of any other of your distinguishing Qualities, as for the Nobleness and Generosity of your Temper: A Virtue hard to be found, and but little practis'd in this mercenary Age. Wit, Learning, and

Parts

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 71

Parts may attend a sneaking, nay, a dishonest Heart ; but Goodness of Nature, Candour of Mind, and Generosity of Temper, are God-like Qualities, and claim an universal Veneration. These are the Virtues that incline you to afford me your Correspondence, and to take in good part such wretched Scribbles as these. I admire Nature for nothing more than for blending together in one and the same Person, a mild, generous, and brave Temper of Soul ; a Favour she never yet bestow'd on any with greater Profusion than on your self : But I must stifle and suppress my own Thoughts on this Subject, lest I should offend the Goodness I so much revere. We have a new Play-house here, which in my Opinion is much finer than D'AVENANT'S ; but the Scenes are not yet made. I saw there Yesterday *Wit without Money*, which as far as I can judge was indifferently well acted. My Lord ROSCOMMON is a very

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ingenious Person, of excellent natural Parts, and certainly the most hopeful young Nobleman in *Ireland*. He has paraphras'd a Psalm admirably well, and the Scene of *Care s'leve Beate* in *Pastor Fido* very finely; in many places much better than Sir RICHARD FANSHAW. He begins it thus,

*Dear happy Groves, and you the
dark Retreat
Of silent Horrour, Rest's eternal
Seat! &c.*

This last he undertook purely out of Compliment to me, having heard me say, 'twas the best Scene in the *Italian*, and the worst in the *English*: He was but two Hours about it, having certainly as easy and fluent a Vein as ever I observ'd or heard of, and which 'tis great pity he does not improve by Practice. ARTABAN will soon bring you my Translation of *POMPEY*, which I fear will not

be deem'd worthy to breathe in a place where so many of the greatest Wits have so long clubb'd for another of the same Play. I long to know your Opinion of it, which I am sure you will give me with all the Freedom and Sincerity of true Friendship, wherein you will oblige beyond Expression, &c.

DUBLIN, Octob.
19. 1662.

ORINDA



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LETTER XVIII.

BY ARTABAN, who set sail yesterday for *England*, I inform'd you what had prevented me from troubling you with my usual Importunities for a whole fortnight together, which is a longer Vacation than I have suffer'd you to enjoy since I saw you, or than you are ever like to have again, if I have my Health and Wits about me ; for I must surely be strangely disturb'd before I can omit a Correspondence so entirely to my own advantage. I give you Thanks for the News your last Letter brought me, though there was more in it than I was pleas'd with knowing. But I have been so custom'd to the Vicissitudes of Fortune in a private Condition, that I cannot wonder there are Revolutions in

in the publick too. I hope, however, those that have already happen'd will put a period to the Turn of the Wheel, and fix it for ever, since what you seem to apprehend is far more terrible than what you relate. The News that pleas'd me was, that you and my dear ROSANIA are well. I received a Letter from her too, wherein she acknowledges the Favour you did her, and expresses her great Esteem for you. You may both be assur'd, that you cannot speak nor think of ORINDA with more Justice, than when you conclude her to be a sincere Friend to you both. I dare answer the same for LUCASIA too, and that we cannot be oftner in your Thoughts, than you are in ours. But let me not forget to return you Thanks for the *Temple of Death*, which I read again and again with vast Delight, and then sent it to my Lord ORERRY, from whom I have receiv'd a thousand Thanks for it; and in

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deed 'twas the only account upon which I could receive Acknowledgments from him without blushing. I am now busy in putting in ANTE-NOR's Claim, as an Adventurer in my Father's Right here in *Ireland*: When this is done, I shall hasten for *Wales*, whither my Inclination as well as Duty calls upon me to be going. You may be sure I shall be suffer'd to go hence in the roughest Season; for my Company is so little engaging, that to stay in any place half so long as I have done here, would tire the greatest Patience, that had not Goodness enough to impute it to the Kindness of my Intentions. LUCASIA is, I believe, in the Condition you mentioned; but I am so useless a Friend, and she has so many others, who are more considerable, that my Absence will be the least of her Troubles. I have not yet told you that ARTABAN brings you all POMPEY, except one Scene, which his hurry would not

per-

permit him to tarry for ; but I have now sent it to him, that he may transcribe it for you, the rest of the Play being written in his hand. I long to hear your Opinion of it, for I fear that I have murther'd him more barbarously here, than ACHILLES did in *Egypt* ; and that my Lord ORRE-
RY's Commands to me, have prov'd no less fatal to him, than the Or-
ders that PROLEMY gave to that
Assassin. But having already writ-
ten a long Letter to you concern-
ing that Affair, I will conclude this
with asking Pardon for all the Trou-
ble you receive from, &c.

Dublin, Octob. 22. 1662.



ORINDA.

E 3 LET-

LETTER XIX.

Most honour'd SIR,

THOUGH the Post hath delivered you from several Importunities of mine by his negligence, yet you cannot escape them till you grow as angry with my Writing, as you appear'd to be at my Silence; for I take all Conveniencys of giving you such troubles as this, till I be restor'd to a Power of doing it more by my Company, which I wish more than ever I did any Removal in my Life, that I may have the Happiness of your most excellent Conversation, which I swear I think at once a Court and an Academy; and to have all in it, that can either oblige, or improve me: But I may wish it, and rave on't, but cannot hope it this

this Winter, for the Reasons I have already told you; and all my Expectation of it in the Spring, depends on the Encouragement ANTE-NOR shall receive from you, and the rest of our Friends there, that my Journey may be prudent for him to allow of, in the present Circumstances of his Fortune. The *Trojan* once undertook to find out somewhat that might be a probable Foundation for Endeavours of such a nature; but in his last to me, he gives me little hopes of any likely Discovery, but he promises to continue his Enquiries; and in that, I know you will advise him, and consult with him before he comes down, what is best to be done in it, that if any thing can be found to that effect, (as I must needs hope, since that alone must bring me nearer ROSANIA and POLIARCHUS) you may impart your desires of ANTE-NOR's laying hold of it, to be communicated to him

by the *Trojan*. I think, I need make no Professions, that Advantages of Fortune were never the Objects of my Desire, and that I could as contendedly wear out my Life among Books and Shades as the gravest Philosopher, if I had not an Inclination more powerful to the Company of my Friends ; and the making myself better by hearing their excellent Discourses, and seeing their worthy Actions ; and therefore you will easily believe me, that, except only the inward Satisfaction of being useful to ANTENOR's Affairs, (which is one of the greatest Comforts in the World) I propound to myself no other content by the Journey, than the Society of Persons so justly dear to me ; and that is enough to satisfy all the Ambition of such a Heart as mine, which never could see any thing else desirable in this World. I promis'd you in my last to give you some of my Thoughts of the new POMPEY,

(as

Sept. 179

(as much as I have seen of it) and I do it the more freely, because you know me too well to accuse me of any Envy to Persons so much above it and me; and you love me too well, to disclose my Impertinencys in this or any other kind, to any Eye but your own. I must then tell you, that Mr. WALLER's own Act is not free in my poor Opinion from just Exceptions. The word *Roman Blade* shocks me very much, his frequent double Rhymes in an heroic Poem, his calling POMPEY a Consul, when that was not in the Original, or the History, both the Consuls being with him at *Pharsalia*; *Pharsalian Kites* for *les Vautours de Pharsale*; I cannot relish his englissing *le dernier preuve de leur Amitie, their new Friendship*, and many Additions and Omissions of the Author's Sense. Then in the second and fourth Acts, (which are all I have) unless the Parts acted were much reform'd

E 5 from

from this Copy, there are as many Faults as ever I saw in a good Poem ; which, were I near you, I could much better ask your opinion of : only let me now inquire what you think of these Words,

*Ne me parlez donc plus de Tage
& de Gange,
Je connoy ma portée, & ne prends
point de Change.*

Which they have English'd thus ;

*Talk not to me of Tagus, nor of
Ganges,
I know my Right, and care not for
your Changes,*

And the calling JUBA, SCIPIO and POMPEY's Sons, (for a Rhyme too) daring Sprights, making CLEOPATRA say she courts CÆSAR, and adding ten or twelve Lines of Rome's becoming a Monarchy ; for which, as there is no ground in COR-

NEILLE,

NEILLE, so I see not how it would have been proper for her to say at that time, when CÆSAR had just refused a Crown, being *pique d'honneur*, not to be thought *Rome's* Sovereign, tho' he was her Master. I think, a Translation ought not to be used as Musicians do a Ground, with all the Liberty of Descant, but as Painters when they copy; and the Rule that I understood of Translations, till these Gentlemen inform'd me better, was to write to CORNEILLE's Sense, as it is to be suppos'd CORNEILLE would have done, if he had been an *Englishman* not confin'd to his Lines, nor his Numbers, (unless we can do it happily) but always to his Meaning; or to say all, to translate as the Temple of Death is translated, where the Original appears in its own true undisfigured Proportion, and yet beautify'd with all the Riches of another Tongue. But after all this, let me assure you, that what I have said

84 LETTERS from

said of these Gentlemens Transla-
tion, is to engage you to tell me
your Opinion, rather than to speak
mine; which yet is, that all together
it is an excellent Piece, and done
with great Spirit, and great Happi-
ness; and whosoever shall attack
it, must shew themselves either very
envious, or idle: The former I dis-
claim, but the latter I must own;
and yet with this Belief, that the
Poets will always have infinite ad-
vantage of whoever shall undertake
to be the Criticks. Since you see
me write so impertinently for want
of a Subject, I pray give me one,
by which my Enquirys of you
may enrich my Understanding; for
I never desire Greatness in any thing
but that, and your Favour to,

Octob. 26.

1663

see p. 108

SIR,
Your most faithful Friend,
and humble Servant,

ANTENOR is most ORINDA.
1663 faithfully yours.

I

I know you have seen the CORK-Family, and I desire an account of it from you. I hope you will like them so well, that I shall not need to beg your continuing that Acquaintance ; and am so sure of their and your Generosity to me, that I shall be sometimes mention'd *dans les entretiens que vous en aurez*, till I can be so happy to share them a more delightful way.

ROSANIA hath some things of concern to me, to impart to you. I have not heard from LUCASIA these six Weeks, which I impute rather to the Wind's Cruelty than hers, for my own Quiet, as well as her Honour. This comes by a private Hand, which I chuse both for safety and speed, till you get the Post reformed.

ROSANIA would fain have you her Neighbour in *Northamptonshire*, by marrying a handsome rich Widow there, and a Cousin of LUCASIA'S; she will tell you more of

of it: And really, Sir, I cannot approve the Austerity of your Resolutions against it, if a convenient Fortune, and agreeable Person may be had — More of this next time.



LET.

LETTER XX.

I Have not heard from you these three Weeks, but am apt to flatter my self that you have written, and that your Letters are waiting for a Wind, as we believe the *London* Packets have done for some time; for we have heard nothing from *England* these ten Days and more, which is a great Affliction to me; for I am very impatient to know whether you have receiv'd what I sent you by *ARTABAN*, with the true reason why it dar'd to present itself to you in so ill a Dress. But I have had so many Instances of your unmerited Goodness towards me, that I despair not of finding it continu'd to all my Productions; for I look on you to be more a Friend to me, than *DAVID* was to *JONATHAN*, and

and am convinc'd will love my MEPHIBOSHETH, tho' he be lame, and under a Cloud: I mean, you will pardon the most imperfect Labours of your Friend, and either correct or conceal their Faults. Sir NICHOLAS ARMOURER is still here; and lest he should stand too much on the Distance of a Grandfather, and be scrupulous to give you an account how he spends his time, I will do it for him, and tell you, that he passes it in the Day agreeably enough; but because a doleful Bell-man us'd to disturb his Sleep in the Night, and throw him into some melancholy. Contemplations of Eternity, he has thought fit to reform that Grievance, and has made a more profitable Admonition for that Night-walker to thunder in his Master's Ears as he goes his nightly Rounds. Part of it is as follows:

Learn

*Learn betimes your Days to
number,
And spend not all your time at
Ombre.
Fly Pandars, Swearers, Traitors,
Whores,
Spadillio's, Mallillio's, Matta-
dores.
Shun Sin in Word, and Deed,
and Thought,
And ev'ry Morning pay your
Groat :
Waste not in vain the crystal
Day,
But gather your Rose-buds while
you may.*

With a great deal more of the like reverend Extravagancy, which he and the ingenious Doctor PETT have contriv'd for the same purpose. This is to convince you, that tho' Spiders are not conversant in *Ireland*, the Muses are better-natur'd, and that there are Poets here besides
my

my Lord ORRERY. I could send you too a jolly Ballad of my own, but I have not time now, nor indeed Cruelty enough to be eternally tormenting you ; especially till I have heard your Thoughts of POMPEY, where I desire you, if you think fit, to change the two last Lines of PHOTINUS's Speech in the second Act for these :

*Boasts are but Air, but he revenges best
That acts his braver Thoughts,
and talks the least.*

But this and all the rest of it is intirely submitted to your Judg-
ment. And had you been near me, my Lord ORRERY should not have seen one Line of it, before it had pass'd your File ; for till then I can entertain none but distrustful Thoughts of it. There are, tho' much against my Will, more Copies of it abroad than I could have imagin'd ;

imagin'd; but the Dutches of ORMOND would not be refus'd one, and she and PHILASTER have permitted several Persons to take Copies from theirs. However, I disclaim them all till I see the Corrections you have made, which I beg of you to send me by the first Opportunity, that I may, before I go hence, correct the other Copies by yours. I yet resolve to be going before *Christmas*, tho' the Weather here be continually tempestuous: I have now no longer any pretence of Busines to detain me, and a Storm must not keep me from ANTENOR and my Duty, lest I raise a greater within. But oh! that there were no Tempests but those of the Sea for me to suffer in parting with my dear LUCASIA! A thousand times a Day I call to mind this excellent Couplet;

-THEI

O!

O ! qu'il est doux d'aimer, si l'on
aimeroit toujours ;
Mais helas ! il n'y a point d'e-
ternelles Amours.

But I will no longer trouble you
with these melancholy Thoughts :
Be pleas'd only to believe, that
wherever I am, in the midst of
all my Enjoyments, and all my
Afflictions, POLIARCHUS may be
assur'd of having a most faithful,
tho' useless and undeserving Friend,
of

ORINDA.



LETTER XXI.

IN yours of the 22d of last Month, which I receiv'd the 28th, I found so many things, that I must not call Truths, and dare not think barely Complements, that I am at a loss how to understand them aright: For tho' none has a greater Deference for your Judgment in other things, yet when the Competition comes to be betwixt that and your Friendship and Kindness for me, you must give me leave to believe the first of them to be a little blinded by the latter; and therefore I will say, you read the two first Acts of POMPEY with so favourable a Prepossession, as would not give you leave to form a right Judgment of them. But by this time you have gone thro' the whole Translation; and if you have not

not discover'd in it too many Errors for any Correction to redrefs, you will much oblige me to consider it with more Severity of the Critick, and let it receive the last finishing Strokes from your excellent Pen; that it may be a tolerable Offering to be laid at the Feet of that great Person for whom I design'd it: And therefore, since you have encourag'd me to believe that an Address to her might be pardon'd, I have taken the Assurance to obey you in writing one of a few Lines only, not daring to rob her of her time by any length of reading. Besides, I am so certain of your Good-will towards me, that I cannot doubt, but when you present it to her, you will say much more in my behalf than I have either Courage or Skill to say for my self. This I desire you to believe, that when you shall speak of the Veneration I have for her Royal Highness, you can scarce exceed the Truth; for the Bounds of my utmost

Ambition aspire no higher, than to be able to give her one Moment's Entertainment. But if this Trifle be at all presented, the sooner, I think, the better: For in spight of all I could do to prevent it, so many Copies are already abroad, that the particular Respect intended to the Dutches, will be lost by a little Delay. Besides, the other Translation, done by so many eminent Hands, will otherwise appear first, and throw this into everlasting Obscurity; unless it get as much the Start of that in Time, as it comes behind it in Merit. But I refer it wholly to you, and will now change my Subject, and tell you, that we have Plays here in the newest Mode, and not ill acted; only the other Day, when OTHELLO was play'd, the DOGE of VENICE and all his Senators came upon the Stage with Feathers in their Hats, which was like to have chang'd the Tragedy into a Comedy, but that the MOOR and DESDEMONA acted

acted their Parts well. Judge then of the Humour I was in, by what happen'd once to your self, when we saw *the Maid's Tragedy* together. I am most glad that you oblige ROSANIA with your Visits, who, I assure you, is very sensible of that Favour, and sets a high Value on your Friendship. I sent her a Copy of POMPEY, which, if she receive it, before you have presented one to the Dutches, I desire none may see but herself. I have other things to write, but want time at present to say more, but that I am and will be all my Life with the greatest Sincerity, &c.

Decemb. 13, 1662.

ORINDA.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

THO' yours of the second Instant found me neither at an Ambassador's Entry, nor at a Consecration Feast, yet it gave me more Content than the former can take in his Character, or the latter in his Dignity. I am oblig'd to you for examining POMPEY with so much Care, as to have found one Fault, though I believe you might still find many : I had it once in my mind to tell you, that I was loth to use the Word *Effort*, but not having Language enough to find any other Rhyme without losing all the Spirit and Force of the next Line, and knowing that it has been naturaliz'd at least these twelve Years ; besides, that it was not us'd in that place in

the French, I ventur'd to let it pass: But I know you are better able to correct that Passage than myself, and I hope you will yet do it. I am not a little troubled that ARTABAN has yet brought you but two Acts; for at this rate when is it likely to be presented to the Dutchess? I had rather it never should, than that she should hear it is gotten into other Hands before, which I much fear she will. Had I suspected that he would have been so slow a Transcriber, I would have sent you an intire Copy from hence, well enough scribbled over for you to correct; and then you might have gotten it fairly written for her Highness. I have sent to press him to be as expeditious as possible, and pray do you give him no rest till he has perform'd his Task. My Lady ROSCOMMON returns you her Acknowledgments for the Cypher. She is indeed a Person of so great Merit, and so extremely kind to me, that I am sure you will

not

I

not

not repent of having so much oblig'd her. She is pleas'd to lay aside all the distance betwixt us, and uses me as a most particular and intimate Friend : Besides, she has so much good Humour join'd to her other Accomplishments, that I should be very stupid, did I not embrace the Happiness of her Friendship with the utmost Satisfaction. But now I am boasting of a Friend, I fear you will give me no cause to do so of you, if after all your Obligements you conceal your Amour from a Person so interested as myself in all that concerns you. I can hear in several Places of a Servant to a Lady who has 3000 Pounds a Year, and I could tell you his Name too, if I thought you were a Stranger to it: If she be excellently good, I wish you had her; if not, I cannot, tho' she had three Millions. I beg of you to be free with me, and make me your Confident; perhaps my Friendship may stand you in some other stead

100 LETTERS from

than hitherto it has done: But were I as little able to serve you in this, as in any other Affair, would it be no Ease to you, to give a share in the Knowledge of your Concerns to a Person who you know will be so ready to serve you in any thing, and keep your Counsel with so much Faithfulness? Our Lover here, the Doctor, is still rack'd with Delays, but flatters himself with Amends for all, if he could prevail with the Mother to be once in a good humour. My going hence continues uncertain, because my Business here is still so too. LUCASIA salutes you with her very humble Service, and be pleas'd to accept the like from, &c.

11 Dec. 1662.

ORINDA.



LET-

LETTER XXIII.

BElieve me, POLIARCHUS, I writ the Letter to the Dutches in Prose, neither out of Laziness nor Disrespect, but merely because I thought it would have look'd more pedantick and affected to have address'd myself to her in Verse: I verily believe I could more easily have pleas'd myself with what I should have said in Rhyme, but I thought Prose would favour less of Ostentation: Besides, having so lately written to her in Verse on a like occasion, I strictly enjoin'd myself to write in Prose now, and that too by the Advice of all my Friends here; who, I hope, were not mistaken in their Opinions, and that the manner of my Application to her Highness will not be misunderstood, nor

taken amiss. However, I have so great a Deference for your Judgment, that had you sent me word you utterly disapprov'd my accosting her in Prose, I would have attempted something or other in Verse to have sent you by this Post; but your not having wholly condemn'd my having made my Address in Prose, has prevented me. I am overjoy'd that you assure me with all the Sincerity of a Friend, that you can endure the reading of my Translation, and that you believe it will pass the Test with others as well as yourself. 'Tis now about to be expos'd to all the Criticks of ALGIER, and what will become of it I know not, unless you will please to be its Champion, and persuade her Royal Highnes to favour it with her Protection; and then I need not fear the Severity of all that have had a hand in the other Translation, nor of the united Forces of all their Party, or whoever else will shew their Skill in censuring my innocent

nocent and well-meaning Performance. I confess I am somewhat unquiet till I hear how her Royal Highness receives the Boldness of my addressing it to her, and therefore desire to know my doom in that particular by the first opportunity; and at the same time to have a more full account of your own Concerns, wherein none, unless you have a Mistress that understands her own Happiness, and intends yours, can take more part than myself. I took the freedom in my last to ask you whether the Report of your Amour be groundless or not; in which, when you have more Leisure, you will, I hope, resolve me. I wish a short Letter pleas'd you as little as it does me; for then I should now be reveng'd on you for your last.

Decemb. 27, 1662.

ORINDA.

LETTER XXIV.

YOUR last Letter, most generous POLIARCHUS, gave me several Emotions of Mind while I was reading it ; for at first I verily believed you as arrant a Lover as ever you were, till you undeceiv'd me afterwards, and gave me just reason to acquit you of the Unkindness I laid to your charge, in refusing to make me your Confident. I heard from several Persons that you were carrying on an Amour, and I could tell you the Lady's Name too ; but since there is nothing in it, 'twill be best to say no more of it ; only that I desire Heaven to direct you either in the Change or Continuance of your Condition, as may be most conducive to your Happiness ; and request you, not to refuse me such a share

share in your Friendship, as may entitle me to the Knowledge of all that concerns you ; and to be assur'd besides, that tho' I can never deserve that Confidence, nor assist you in any thing, yet I can be as truly touch'd, and bear as great a part in all your good or ill Fortune, as any Person in the World ; which, you know, is not the most inconsiderable use that can be made of a Friend. And should it ever miraculously fall in my power to serve you or any of yours, I should do it with greater Satisfaction than ever I took in receiving any of your Favours, except only the Promise of your Friendship, which I prefer to the greatest Contentments I can propose to myself on this side the Grave. And now, Sir, let me return you my Acknowledgments for all the Trouble you have given yourself about POMPEY : The Theft you committed is so much forgiven by LUCASIA, that she thanks you for it ; and says, she is glad you

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met with that Copy for her Highness, as she is vex'd that ARTABAN should serve us as he did : She is certain, and so am I too, that ROSANIA will be of her mind. I humbly thank you for presenting it to the Dutchesse, which you must needs have done in a favourable manner and lucky Minute, otherwise it could never have been so acceptable as you tell me it was. I should be extremely glad to hear that she continuallie to have the same Opinion of it when she has read it through ; for I cannot but be apprehensive that her strict Judgment will discover many Errors, which your Kindness prevented you from observing. Let her Thoughts of it be never so severe, I hope you will not disguise them from me : But you have drawn upon her one Trouble more, for I was so puff'd up with the Honour of her Protection, that I have ventur'd to lengthen the Play by adding Songs in the Intervals of each Act, which they flatter me here

are

are not amiss: And indeed, if I may be allow'd to say any thing of my own Compositions, I do think them not inferior to any thing I ever writ. If you happen to like them, I am confident the Dutches will do so too; and therefore I will send them you by the next Post (for I have not time to transcribe them now) that you may lay them at her Royal Highness's Feet. I have, I fear, done ill to raise your Expectation by commending them myself, but you know that all I write aims at no higher an Ambition than to receive the last Correction from your Hand; so that whatever my Thoughts of them are, I submit them wholly to your better Judgment, either to correct them, if you think they deserve it, or otherwise to suppress them for ever. I am promis'd to have them all set by the greatest Masters in ENGLAND; but I should be more proud to have one Assurance from POLIARCHUS, that he likes them, than to have

them

them compos'd by WILL. LAWES, were he still alive, and sung by Mrs. KNIGHT. PHILASTER has already set one of them very agreeably, and abundance of People are learning it: But I will give you no more trouble concerning them till next Post, for I must now thank you extremely for altering the Word *Effort*; had I thought on the Turn you have given that Expression, you may be sure I would have us'd no other: I hope you have corrected it in her Highness's Copy. As for the words *Heaven* and *Power*, I am of your opinion too, especially as to the latter; for the other may, I think, be sometimes so plac'd, as not to offend the Ear, when it is us'd in two Syllables. I long to hear what becomes of the other Translation of POMPEY, and what Opinion the Town and Court have of it; I have laid out several ways to get a Copy, but cannot yet procure one, except only of the first Act that was done by Mr. WALLER.

Sir

Sir EDWARD FILMORE did one, Sir CHARLES SEDLEY another, and my Lord BUCKHURST another ; but who the fifth, I cannot learn, pray inform youself as soon as you can, and let me know it. ANTENOR's Affair that I mention'd to you formerly, and not the Charms of this Place, detains me here still ; but indeed never any body found more Civility, Kindness and Respect from all manner of Persons, especially of the highest Quality, than I do in this Country : I believe no Stranger was ever so well received among them before. *I can add no more, but the needless Repetition of assuring you that I will be, as long as I am any thing, &c.

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 109
Jan. 10, 1662.

ORINDA.

LET-

LETTER XXV.

I Threatned you last Post, and now I keep my Word, that I would send you the inclos'd Songs, that I made for the Intervals of the Acts of POMPEY; and if all who have seen them here do not flatter me very much, I may send them you with less Confusion than ever I could yet any thing of the like nature. But I have so constant a Distrust of my own Performances, and so much Reason for it, that I should not dare to desire you to present them to the Dutchesse, did I not know you to be so much my Friend as to suppress the Errors that are past your Correction; but what you can make pardonable in them, be pleas'd to offer to her Highness, as a Production of her own Favour, and a Tribute for it.

The

The first Song you will find to be brisk, and made on purpose for such an Air, which indeed PHILASTER has given it to all the Advantages that Musick, when apply'd by a skilful Hand, can give to the meanest Words. Almost all that can sing here have learnt it already, and I am so sure it will please you, that if you will, I will send it you in Notes: Mean while, if all your Interest and Eloquence can gain Acceptance, pray procure it from her Highness for this new Trifle I presume to send her: I writ to you last time to know how she likes POMPEY after reading, and what Judgment the Town makes of the other Translation, all which I would fain hear; but much rather of your Health and Continuance to own ORINDA as your Friend, which I have not done above this Fortnight. I wish the *Russia* Ambassador and his Furs in the remotest part of his own Country, for he has hindered me of many a Letter from you,

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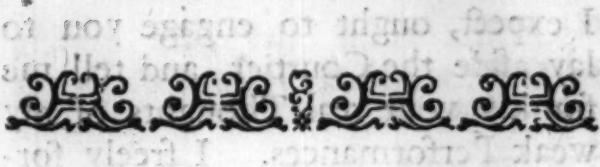
you, and shorten'd the few I have had ; but you will, I hope, in a little time be more at leisure to think of, &c.

Jan. 24. 1662.

ORINDA.



LET.



LETTER XXVI.

I Have received yours of the tenth Instant, and thank you for the Assurance it brings of the Continuance of your Concern for me, who can no ways deserve so great a Happiness, but by the inestimable Value I set upon it ; but is it under colour of this that you pretend to talk to me at the rate you do both of my Verse and Prose ? Or is it your cunning to make me conceal the first from you, and forbear giving you the trouble of the last ? For these would be the Effects of this Usage, did not my great Esteem for POLIARCHUS outweigh all my Resentments for any Injuries he can throw upon me. The Friendship that you profess and

114 LETTERS from

I expect, ought to engage you to lay aside the Courtier, and tell me frankly your real Thoughts of my weak Performances. I freely forgive what is past, but on condition that I may prevail with you to banish all Flattery for the future. I sent you the Songs I made for POMPEY, and cannot indeed expect that you should be as barbarously severe to those unworthy Productions as an *Algerine*, because you were the occasion of my daring to trouble the World with any thing more on that Subject, by the Encouragement I receiv'd from you of the Dutchesse's Approbation, the Bishop of WORCESTER's, and Mr. ROSE's, but especially of your own, for which reason you are bound either to suppress or support and protect them, like a true Knight Errant, against all the Pirates you wot of. I am sure I have cause to wish I had never made any of them, for I think they have been the chief
rea-

reason that has made my Lord ORRERY resolve to have POMPEY acted here, which, notwithstanding all my Intreaties to the contrary, he is going on with, and has advanc'd a hundred Pounds towards the Expence of buying *Roman* and *Egyptian* Habits. All the other Persons of Quality here are also very earnest to bring it upon the Stage, and seem resolv'd to endure the Penance of seeing it play'd on *Tuesday* come severnnight, which day is appointed for the first time of acting it. My Lord Roscommon has made a Prologue for it, and Sir EDWARD DERING an Epilogue: Several other Hands have likewise oblig'd me with both Prologues and Epilogues; but those I first mention'd will be only repeated; for they are the best writ that ever I read any thing of that kind. You shall have them by the next Post. The Songs are set by several Hands; the first and fifth admirably well by

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by PHILASTER, the third by Doctor PETT; one LE GRAND a *Frenchman*, belonging to the Duchess of ORMOND, has, by her Order, set the fourth; and a *Frenchman* of my Lord ORRERY's the second; so that all is ready, and poor I condemn'd to be expos'd, unless some Accident, which I heartily wish, but cannot foresee, kindly intervene to my Relief. Had not the Duke himself, and all the considerable Persons here hasten'd its being acted, I might have had hopes of preventing it, or at least have delay'd it till I was gone hence; but there was no resisting the Stream, and so it must e'en take its Fortune. But I fear I have tir'd you almost as much with entertaining you continually about it, as they will be with the Representation of the Play: But I have some Design in being thus tedious on this Subject, and mean thereby to revenge myself of you, by convincing you how much you

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 117

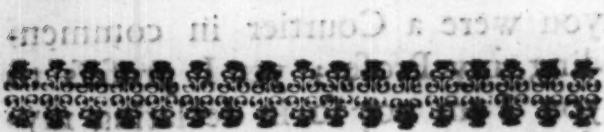
you were a Courtier in commanding my Prose ; yet I profess to you I am not so in declaring myself, &c.

Jan. 31. 1668.

ORINDA,



LET



LETTER XXVII.

I Have not heard from you this Month, which Misfortune I impute rather to the Crossness of the Winds, than the Unkindness of your Silence ; for 'tis the Unluckiness of this place never to have our Letters regularly from *England*, for three Posts together. By my Lady TYRREL, who took shipping last *Friday* for *Chester*, I have sent you a Packet of printed POMPEYS to dispose of as you think fit. Be pleas'd to get one bound and present it to the Dutchess ; and if you think the King would allow such a Trifle a Place in his Closet, let him have another : but before you part with any, pray mend these two Lines,

Act 3, Scene 2.

If

If Heaven, which does persecute
me still, in you not answ're me
Had made my Power equal to my
Will.

My Objection to them is, that the
Words *Heaven* and *Power* are us'd
as two Syllables each; but to find
fault with them is much easier to me,
than to correct them. I would fain
have made use of your Corrections,
and thrown away the word *Effort*,
but my Lord ORERRY would ab-
solutely have it continu'd; and so it
is, to please his Humour, tho' against
my Will and Judgment too. You
will find the Prologue in print which
improv'd since twas sent you in writ-
ing; and indeed I am proud ¹⁶⁹¹ that
your Judgment concurr'd so much
with mine in the Approbation of that
and the Epilogue. I have had many
Letters and Copies of Verses sent me,
some from my Acquaintance, and
some from Strangers, to compliment
me

120 LETTERS from

me upon POMPEY, which, were I capable of Vanity, would even surfeit me with it; for they are so full of Flattery, that I have not the Confidence to send them to you. One of them, who pretends to be a Woman, writes very well, but I cannot imagine who the Author is, nor by any Inquiry I can make, have hitherto been able to discover. I intend to keep that Copy by me, to shew it you when next we meet, which I heartily wish may be soon, it being one of the greatest Felicities I propose to myself in this World, and which I will endeavour to compass once before I die with all the Contrivance and Assiduity I am capable of, being more than ~~all~~ the World besides,

&c.

8 April, 1663.

ORINDA,

LET-

LETTER XXVIII.

I Hope I need not tell you that I set such a Value on every Expression in your last Letter, that not one Syllable of it is thrown away upon me ; nor that all the great Obligations you have heap'd on me are less binding than the Friendship with which they were conferr'd. I cannot therefore but thank you from the bottom of my Heart for continuing a Correspondence, which I prize above all things, and which gives me the greatest Satisfaction. I hope I shall never out-live the Loss of that Advantage ; and that your Goodness, which I have never merited, but will always study to deserve, will still keep me alive in your Thoughts. Accept my Thanks likewise for the favourable Return you have obtained for

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me

122 LETTERS from

me from her Royal Highness. I wish I could have sent you more Copies of POMPEY, but there being in all but five hundred printed, I could not get as many as I had occasion to dispose of. Mr. HERRINGMAN has written to me to give him leave to reprint it at *London*, and I have order'd my Brother PHILIPS to treat with him about it. But I must beg the Favour of you to correct it before it goes to the Press; particularly the two Lines I writ to you of last Post, and those where the word *Effort* was us'd, which I desire may be alter'd as you once advis'd. And unless you will take the trouble upon you of correcting the Proofs, I am sure it will be as false printed as was my Copy of Verses to the Queen. I would beg leave publickly to address it to the Dutches, but that I must then put my Name to it, which I can never resolve to do; for I shall scarce ever pardon myself the Confidence of having permitted it to see

the

the Light at all, tho' it was purely in my own Defence that I did ; for had I not furnish'd a true Copy, it had been printed from one that was very false and imperfect. But should I once own it publickly, I think I should never be able to shew my Face again ; and thus her Highness will be freed from the trouble of protecting a Trifle, which indeed had never been expos'd at all, but by her Approbation, which was my sole Encouragement to let it first be seen by those, who even compell'd me to suffer it to be acted and then print-ed. I hear Mr. TUKE's Play is in the Pres, and am in great Impatience to see it. I humbly thank you for the Books you sent me. HUDIBRAS is an excellent Droll, and in my Life I never read any thing so naturally and so knowingly Burlesque. *Le nuove Guare de' Disperati* relates a very handsome Intrigue ; but I am not yet perfect enough in the *Italian* to discover all the Beauties of Co-

TESTI's Poems, which I scarcely forgive myself for, having had the Advantage of so good a Master as your self. Pray instruct me what I must do to understand perfectly the *Italian* Poetry, which is my earnest Ambition, and shall be my obstinate Endeavour; for what I comprehend of it is so pleasant, that I cannot have any patience when I am at a loss for the meaning, which indeed I am very often. I have lately read a Play call'd *Filli di Sciro*, which pleases me extremely; and I should think myself very happy, if I understood TASSO, and the other Poets, as well as I do that Pastoral. I brought the CORTEGGIANO with me into *Ireland*, and find it the best Company I ever met with, but POLIARCHUS, who is himself all and more than is there describ'd. I make no question but ROSANIA and you meet often at Church, and am very happy in Friends that make only such Assignations: Tho' I cannot partake

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 125

take of the excellent Sermons, yet by conversing with you two, I am sure of having them repeated to me in your Lives. I hope to hear from you once more before I go hence, tho' I am hastening to be gone as fast as I can. But you shall have an account of all my Motions, and Resolves, and know where you may make me happy with your Letters, which will ever be most welcome to, &c.

April 15. 1663.

ORINDA.



G 3

LET



LETTER XXIX.

GIVE me leave, Sir, to tell you what I know you have heard from ANTENOR already, that he intreats you to accept of an Election to be Burgess for the Town of *Cardigan*, which he would not mention to you till 'twas past, because he was resolv'd not to expose you to a Repulse; nor had you ever been nam'd, but that he found himself able to carry it for you against all the World. You are chosen upon the Poll by 118 Votes, all of them allow'd by our Antagonists themselves to have right to elect. If any of the other Party should endeavour to insinuate that they quietly submitted to it, merely out of respect to you, pray let them know, that you are sufficiently inform'd, they did all they could

to oppose you, and that it was carry'd purely by ANTENOR's single Interest. I hope all those who were the greatest Sticklers against him will now be convinc'd, that after all their Contrivances to asperse his Person, and baffle the Election, he is not yet the despicable thing in his own Country that they would represent him to be. He hopes you will not despise this little Instance, since 'tis all his Misfortunes have left him capable to give, of his Esteem and Gratitude to you; for whom I am certain he has as profound a Respect and Veneration as for any Man living. I know you are not fond of being a Parliament-Man; yet since you are elected, so much without your seeking, that I am sure it was not so much as thought of by you; and since it was intended as a Testimony of the eternal Value and Friendship that ANTENOR and ORINDA must ever have for the noble POLIARCHUS, I hope he will not be angry to be sent

into the House without his own Consent or Knowledge. The truth is, ANTENOR and myself always intended it, but were not willing to tell you so, till we saw what Forces our Enemies were like to muster up against us ; and had they been likely to have been too powerful for ANTENOR to cope with, your Name had never been mention'd : But when he saw the Affections of the Town so unanimous for him, he recommended you to them as a Person fit to be their Representative in Parliament ; and, as I am inform'd by some who heard him, made a very handsome Speech in the face of the Country, and declar'd himself in such a manner as became a Gentleman, who neither could fear his Enemies, nor abandon his Country's Service. Since you have this Relation to a place where our little Fortune and Interest lies, I hope it will be a new Tie to our Friendship, and that ANTENOR will by this means have sometimes
the

the Honour of hearing from you, which I know he will value as from the Man whose Acquaintance he most covets. And if any happy Providence make an Overture for our coming near you, he may then contract that Intimacy with you, which next to my own Happiness in your Conversation, which is now become absolutely necessary to the Satisfaction of my Life, is one of my most aspiring Wishes in this World. But now you are a Member of Parliament, woe be to you for Letters; for if possible, I will increase that Persecution, since you will have but half the Inconvenience of them to excuse, I mean, the Trouble, not the Charge: And to say truth, I have mightily consider'd those two Points, have I not? ROSANIA was not so good as her word, in letting me hear from her by the Post you told me I should, and pray tell her I am scarce in Charity with her, for being so very a Recreant, as never to be constant in

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130 LETTERS from

maintaining a Correspondence, on which she knows I set so high a Value. You see, dear POLIARCHUS, that when I am writing to you, I never know when to leave off: I am sure I have tir'd you with this Scribble, which asks your Patience only till it has told you that no-body in all the World is more faithfully your Friend than, &c.

April 18. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET.



LETTER XXX.

I Should take it unkindly of any one but POLIARCHUS, that could bestow so many unfriendly Compliments on ANTENOR, for his doing him a Civility so far short of the Obligations he owes him, that I am confident he will think himself very happy to be assur'd, that you can forgive his having surpriz'd you in procuring you to be elected, without your own Privity, and that you would take in good part the Intentions he had in giving you that Earnest of his sincere and hearty Respects. But I have said so much on that Subject in my last, that 'twill be needless to repeat it in this. I am now on my Departure from hence, and hastening to my Desart; and indeed 'tis high time I were there: Nothing but my Friendship for LUCASIA, and the soliciting

soliciting a small Affair ANTENOR has here, could have prevail'd with me to have been absent so long. I hope now to be going in a few days ; but till I have given you notice of the time, I desire you not to alter the Address of your Letters ; which, wherever I am, I would not fail to receive for more than I will tell you. I grant that if my Interest had been as prevalent with CALANTHE, as ANTENOR's prov'd at *Cardigan*, you had possess'd, and I had still enjoy'd, what Fortune now denies to both of us. I am sure I had as good a Pretence to the former, as ANTENOR, with all his Zeal to serve that Town, had to the latter ; but we are always deny'd what we earnestly covet, and allow'd what we less value. Methinks, as we much resemble each other in our Losses, so we differ not much in our supporting them. I know with how much Difficulty you have endeavour'd to submit to this cruel Blow of Providence, and you are

are not ignorant how hard a Task it still is to me to resign myself to it. But I must overcome this Tenderness of Soul that renders me so uneasy ; and if Reason will not do me that Office, Time and Necessity must. I have us'd all the Arts that Diver-
sion could afford me, to divide and cure a Passion that has met with so ill a Return, and am not a little ob-
lig'd to my Lady CORK's Family for assiting me in that Intention : But oh ! I begin already to dread what will become of me, when I return home, and am restor'd to the sight of those Places, where I have been so often blest with the Enjoyment of a Conversation in which I took so much Delight, and is now for ever ravish'd from me. The Melancholy that results from these Reflections, is, I believe, next to the Happiness of conversing with you and ROSA-
NIA, the chief reason that makes me wish that any Star would be so kind as to furnish me with an occa-
sion.

sion of being nearer to both of you, without doing any thing to obtain that Felicity, that might render me unworthy of it; I mean, by being prejudicial to ANTENOR's Affairs. My Lady CORK says she will have me in *London*, and in order to that will, when she comes up, consult with you about the Methods to bring it to pass. You may be sure I will contribute all that lies in my power towards the making myself thus happy. But write not one word either of this, or any thing that concerns CALANTHE, except in *Italian*. As for the reprinting of POMPEY, I leave it wholly to you to do what you will in it; be pleas'd only to correct it where it most needs. I am told I was mistaken in giving ACHOREUS the Quality of CLEOPATRA's Gentleman-Usher, he being an *Egyptian* Priest. If it be an Error, the *French* led me into it, by calling him *Ecuyer de la Reine*, and therefore I bestow'd that Title on him in the Names.

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 135

Names of the Persons represented.
After the third Act I have us'd an Expression which I take to be improper; *Recitative Air*: I desire it may be made *Recitative Musick*: And as to the rest, let all the Corrections in the Copy I sent to your self be observ'd. I hope you will not make me undergo so great a Penance, as your silence another fortnight would be; for not to hear constantly from you is no small Uneasiness to, &c.

May 2. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET.



LETTER XXXI.

I Am sorry Sir FRANCIS LLOYD intends to contest your Election : Sure 'tis a Fate upon us, that whatever we design for your Service, should turn to your Trouble and Vexation. But I dare assure you that ANTENOR has been so careful in his Management of that Affair, as not to give the contrary Party the least pretence of Cavil and Dispute : For besides that he knew they waited only for such an occasion, he has too great a Value for POLIARCHUS, to expose him to appear in publick on an indirect Account, or in a Cause in which there was the least Appearance he should be baffled. Believe, therefore, that your Election is as free from all just Exceptions, as it was far

far from your Expectations ; and that you are not a Person whom we would engage in a Contest, were there not all the Right in the World on your side to bring you off. AN-TENOR allow'd all the Persons to vote whom they pretended had a Right to do so, many of which he might justly have excepted against, only to convince them that the utmost of their Strength was insufficient to cope with his Interest, and to prevent all After-Disputes. But as Sir FRANCIS has deceiv'd me in the Opinion I had, that he would not have the Confidence to contest the Election ; so I doubt not but he will be disappointed himself in thinking to set it aside. And now to the rest of your obliging Letter. I think that since you intend to present a POMPEY to the King, you are in the right to design that Copy for him that was intended for the Dutchess, and to get another ready for her as soon as possible ; but

but why need my Advice be ask'd in this matter? sure POLIARCHUS is not now to be told that he may dispose of any thing belongs to ORINDA without these Formalities. I intend to send you by the first Opportunity a Miscellaneous Collection of Poems, printed here; among which, to fill up the number of his Sheets, and as a Foil to the others, the Printer has thought fit, tho' without my Consent or Privity, to publish two or three Poems of mine, that had been stolen from me; but the others are not worth your reading. You shall likewise have at the same time all the Prologues and Epilogues that were sent me for POMPEY, and all the complementing Verses I receiv'd on that Translation; together with a Prologue spoken the other day to a Play that was acted before my Lord Lieutenant, in which the Poet has taken occasion to flatter me on account of POMPEY. I thank you for the
Care.

Care you take to make me perfect in a Language that I am so fond of, for his sake who first encourag'd me to learn it, and gave me the first Rudiments of it. But above all your Kindnesses, I am most oblig'd to you for the friendly Desire you express in every Letter of seeing me in *London*. In return be pleas'd to be assur'd, that the chiefest Motive to induce me to wish my self there, is the Opportunity it would give me of your Conversation: And I think you know me well enough to believe, tho' I covet that Happiness ever so much, yet I know my self unworthy of so great a Blessing, or indeed unfit for any thing but to converse with the Rocks and Mountains, where Fate has allotted me my Abode: however, I shall most gladly contribute all I can to procure myself so unspeakable an Advantage. If Friends so dear to me as my Lady CORK, ROSANIA and POLIARCHUS, are pleas'd to think it worth

worth their while to be troubled with my dull Company, I will flatter my self that when they next meet, they will easily contrive some way to bring me among them, that may not be prejudicial to ANTE-NOR's Affairs, nor thwart my willing Compliance with his Fortunes. But I will say no more of this till my Lady CORK comes up, and then I hope you three will meet in a Committee to consult about it, and let me know your Resolves. Mean while, I desire you to confer with the *Trojan* on this Subject, to whom I have written concerning it, and intreated him to impart to you my whole Thoughts of this matter, of which, whenever you write any thing to me, let it be in *Italian*. We have no News here, and if we had, how could you expect it, who never sent me any ? *I have many things to say, which it will be more proper for me to write after I am come home.* When I have wound up my

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 141

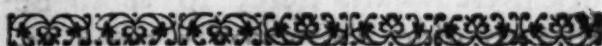
my little Affairs here, so as to be able to give ANTENOR a good account of my long stay in this Country, I will set sail for *Milford*, which, I hope, will be in a short time; but as soon as a Day is fix'd for my Departure hence, you shall not fail to know it: Mean while I am and ever will be, &c.

May 15. 1663.

ORINDA



LET.



LETTER XXXII.

YESTERDAY your Letter of the sixteenth Instant came to my Hands, and gave me (what any of yours very seldom do) some trouble, to hear that you were a little discourag'd about the Election; and because there was some Appearance that it might be question'd, you were unwilling to assert your Right. I beg of you not to be dishearten'd, but believe that ANTENOR would have quietly yielded up the Election to Sir FRANCIS LLOYD, and have given him to boot all he has in the World, rather than have expos'd you to a Disappointment: And had he not been before-hand morally assur'd of his Interest, he would never have propos'd you for a Candidate. I hope, therefore, that since
you

you are fairly chosen by a great Majority of such as have an undoubted Right to elect, you will not quietly give up the Cudgels, especially knowing yourself to have so great an Interest in the House, as gives you not the least room to suspect that you can have any foul Play offer'd you there. I thank you for presenting POMPEY to his MAJESTY, and for the favourable Account you give me of his Royal Goodness for that Trifle. I consent to whatever you think fit to do about printing it, but conjure you by all our mutual Friendship, not to put my Name to it, nay, not so much as the least mark or hint whereby the Publick may guess from whence it came; for could I have prevail'd with my self so far as to have made my Name publick in print, I would have begg'd the Dutches's Leave to have laid it at her Feet in a Dedication: But since that is not to be done without a Name

Name subscrib'd, I have taken the Resolution rather to seem rude in her Opinion, than so confident both in hers and the World's, as to imagine that any thing I could produce were worthy her Acceptance and Protection, or the Notice or Regard of the Publick. But I remember to have seen some *French* Books, without any formal Dedication, where there was in the Title Page, *Dedié à Madame la Princesse, &c.* or the like; why may we not do so too, and say for Example, in the Title-Page of POMPEY, *Humbly dedicated to her Royal Highness the Dutchesse of YORK*, and no more? If you think this be proper, let it be so; for I am in a great streight between the Desire I have to appear intirely devoted to the Dutchesse, and not to appear at all in my true Colours to the World. I leave it intirely to you, and if you resolve on this, you need not present her that Copy which Mrs. BLACKWELL brings, but one

one from the Press at *London*. I think it needless to print the Preface that was printed here, but instead of it let the Bookseller say something in relation to his reprinting it. I shall be going for *Wales* as soon as a Trial I have in the Court of Claims here is over: 'Tis set down for the tenth of next Month, and then nothing but a contrary Wind shall detain me a Moment. Mean while I shall continue to give you notice of all my Motions, there being no Man in the World with whom I would more willingly hold a Correspondence with all the Freedom of Friendship than with the most generous POLIARCHUS, whose Esteem and Good-will shall ever be cherish'd in the highest degree by, &c.

23d May.

ORINDA.

H

LET.



LETTER XXXIII.

I Am glad to be assur'd by yours of the twentieth of *May*, which I receiv'd by the last Post, that you have so just an Opinion of **ANTE-NOR**'s and **ORINDA**'s Respects for you, as to believe it impossible for them to expose you to a disputable Election. I cannot yet think that **Sir FRANCIS LLOYD** will venture to contest it with you before a Committee, where you are so well known, that he cannot expect that his Interest should prevail over the Justice of your Cause, and where his Craft and Confidence will not in the least avail him. I am indeed accustom'd to strange and unexpected Revolutions, and begin to think nothing wonderful; but should not be able to restrain my

Amaze-

Amazement, if so much Falshood should get the better of the Truth. I lay this Affair of yours so deeply to heart, that I know not any thing that depends on my future Fortune, for the Event whereof I am so much concern'd, as for your getting the Victory over your Antagonist ; and this you will allow to be no small Mark of my Esteem for you, since on *Tuesday* seven-night I am to have two Trials for all ANTENOR's Concerns in *Ireland*. I am glad you are so well pleas'd with the Songs ; the fifth of them, which is one of those that PHILASTER compos'd, he recommends to you as his particular Favourite : The Composition is between *Recitative* and *Air*, and humours the Variety of it so well, that all here are extremely taken with it ; particularly my Lady CORK, who sings very well, and is as good a Judge of vocal Musick as the best of them. *The Adventures of five Hours* was snatch'd from me for

Mr. OGILBY, to have it acted here, almost before I had read it over. If the second Part of HUDIBRAS be equal to the first, nothing can be equal to it; but I fear no PEGASUS is able to hold out so long in such a strain. I am vex'd you meet with so much Trouble about the printing of POMPEY, certainly it was conceiv'd in an angry Hour; the Players fell out about it here, and so, it seems, the Printers do at *London*: If CROOK will reprint it, he ought to give me some Copies; if he will not, why should he quarrel with one that will? The best on't is, between 'em both it may perhaps be never made more publick than it is: I am sure it had been more to my Advantage had it never been printed, than the selling it will be to either of them: But if it be condemn'd to undergo the Press once more, pray take into consideration what I writ to you lately, concerning the manner of a

Dedica-

Dedication. Sir EDWARD DERING has desired me to ask your opinion concerning these two Lines in the last Scene of the Play :

*I know I gain another Diadem,
For which none can be blam'd but
Heav'n and him.*

His Objection is, that *him* is scarce Grammar ; he says it should be *he* : I am not Critick enough to resolve this Doubt, and therefore leave it wholly to your Determination. I hear the Confederate Translators intend to have theirs shortly acted, of which I would fain know the Truth. Mr. WALLER has assur'd me, that he is so far from resenting my having undertaken that Translation, that if the Act done by him ever come upon the Stage, he will borrow some of my Lines to mix with his own. A Complement I can never deserve, but becoming his great Civility, and which I would ac-

H 3 know-

150 LETTERS *from*

knowledge if I knew how. But I am more at a loss how I shall ever make you amends for all the Troubles you receive from, &c.

June 3. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET.



LETTER XXXIV.

I Have chosen this Restraint of Paper to confine me to a short Letter, which I sometimes promise you and seldom perform; but must now be as good as my Word, being a Woman of great Affairs and in mighty haste: I have receiv'd your kind Letter, tho' not timely enough to the tenth of *June*, yet before the absolute Determination of my Business; for by the great Goodness of the Commissioners we had a farther Day allow'd us, that we might say all we could for our Pretensions at Law, and what will yet become of it I know not, but own I am a little doubtful of the Success, because the Case is indeed a little perplex'd and intricate: If you have a mind to be troubled with the whole Detail of it,

the *Trojan* to whom I have written it will tell it you, and save both of us the Trouble, you of reading, and me of writing a tedious Narrative here: Only this I cannot forbear, that I have got one of the Causes already, and the other is undetermin'd, and this Day to be argu'd at Law; and if we should come by the worst on't, my Comfort is, 'tis but for the Thirds of a small Estate for an old Woman's Life. Sir ALLEN BRODERICK came to me on the Receipt of yours, with great Professions of Service, which I believe him ready to make good as far as Justice and Honour will permit, and more I will never desire of him or any Man living. I must now tell you a pleasant Adventure of your Grandfather, who having manfully conducted me into the Court, and offer'd his whole Company to be my Affidavit-Men, if I had occasion for them, no sooner laid Eyes on my Adversary, who is indeed a pretty Woman,

Woman, than he was smitten to the Heart, and forsook me in the Eyes of the whole World, making his Addresses to her publickly in the Court ; and to complete all, gallanted her home in his Coach, and left me to shift for myself, and get away as I could. Judge if he have not taken full Revenge for the *Rebus* I made of him. I long to hear your Success at the Committee ; for tho' knowing the Justice of your Cause I cannot much doubt it ; yet we must be in pain for what we most wish and desire, till we are certain of the Event. I have not heard from *Wales* these three Weeks, whence I conjecture that *ANTENOR* is gone to *London* in order to serve you at the Hearing ; if so, I hope it will be a means of gaining him your Acquaintance more particularly, which is one of the greatest Advantages I can wish him. There is a Plot discover'd here, but what to make of it I know not ; and indeed 'tis so unlucky an

Age for Plots, that even those on the Stage cannot thrive: For the Players disband apace, and I am afraid you will shortly see a Farce, or a Puppet-show at *London*, call'd *Ireland in Ridicule*; wherein all the Plays will be repeated, and the Actors themselves acted in Burlesque. Then *POMPEY* will be squeak'd out in a Tone as lamentable as the Language; and, unless you prevent it, the very Puppets will take Example by the Printers, and fall out among themselves, whether *CÆSAR* or *PTOLEMY* shall have the best Hobby-Horse. But to be serious: Since you approve the Method I propos'd of inscribing it to her Royal Highness, I am a little concern'd to have it reprinted; it can scarce be more expos'd than it has been already, and I would have it so, more to the purpose; and therefore if *CROOK* does not intend to reprint it, I know not what Right he can pretend to hinder *HERRINGMAN*, whom, I think,

I

you

you may safely warrant in the printing it, if he be willing to pursue his first Intentions. My Lady Roscommon is gone into the Country, and I know not whether I shall ever see her more; but must always acknowledge to have found her one of the most generous and obliging Persons I ever met with: If I had gain'd nothing but her Friendship by my coming into *Ireland*, I should not think I had lost my Labour. By this time you see what the *English* of a short Letter is, when I write to POLIARCHUS; but tho' I cannot keep my word in that, I am sure I shall in the Profession I make of being all my Life, &c.

ORINDA.

LET-

LETTER XXXV.

I Am overjoy'd to hear of the Victory you have gain'd at the Committee, tho' I could foresee no less both from the Equity of your Cause, and the Interest you had to support it; but what pleases me most is, that the Proofs were so clear, that even Mr. VAUGHAN with all his Cunning was forc'd to second whom he could not resist. I am very glad too that ANTENOR was present; for though I knew he would never decline any thing that might tend to the Service of so dear and noble a Friend to us as POLIARCHUS, yet I was not certain what Impossibilities he might meet with in that Attempt, thro' want of Health, or somewhat of that nature. Sir FRANCIS has now made himself as ridiculous

ridiculous in *London*, as he is in the Country, and done you and AN-TENOR all the Right he could have study'd to do you. But I have not so good News to send you of my Success here, for I have this very Day lost the last of my Causes, which however is of far less Importance than that in which I got the better, it being only for the Dower of a Widow of seventy Years of Age, and the other for the whole Estate of Inheritance. But what vexes me most is, that I lost even this Cause by the Negligence of Persons equally concern'd; and whose Business it was to have taken care to get Witnesses who liv'd in the Country. For tho' the Commissioners shew'd us all the Favour they could, yet for want of Evidence to prove the Widow nocent, which they thro' Covetousness or Carelessness neglected to do, we were put upon this moot Point, whether the Husband's Guilt debarr'd the Wife of

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her Dower? which was carry'd against us, because she derives from Law, not from her Husband: So we must be troubled with this old Woman's Thirds during her Life. I have secur'd a Vessel, and am to imbark next Week for Milford, where I expect to find ANTENOR, *with whom I hope you will use your Endeavours to facilitate my coming to London, if you continue in the same Mind that you have often so kindly express'd to me in your Letters.* You must contrive some plausible Pretence to make him believe, *that by being there I might be very useful to his Affairs by the means of your Friendship, and by the Assistance of my other Friends.* You know how to manage this Matter; but if you please consult with my Brother concerning it, before you mention it to my Husband. He will inform you of the Method it will be most proper to follow. I confess I desire with great Earnestness

ness to see you once more, but that Happiness must be procur'd me by your Management and Conduct, or not at all. Answer me to this Particular in *Italian*. This puts me in mind of *Moroſe*, Answer me not but with your Leg. You see what converſing with you can inspire. This is the first pleasant Imagination I have had to-day, tho' the Receipt of your Letter brought me more Content, for that made me glad, and I am now but merry. Adieu, dear POLIARCHUS, and believe me ever, &c.

ORINDA,



LET.

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LETTER XXXVI

THO' I am in a great Hurry and Trouble, as you may easily imagine, being within this Hour to go aboard for *Milford*, yet I could not omit the Temptation of this Post to acquaint you with it; and intreat you to let me hear from you by the old Direction to *Cardigan*, with a Constancy worthy of your generous Friendship, and my inestimable Value for it. Particularly let me have your Answer in *Italian* concerning what I writ to you in my two last Letters, and which I have not now time to repeat; but believe you enough understand me, who am while I have Breath, &c.

July 15.

ORINDA.

LET-



LETTER XXXVII.

I Take an Opportunity of writing to you by a private Hand, because the Post is so very unsafe, that I fear many of mine, and yours too, which are of ten times more Importance, have miscarry'd: but because we have no other way to depend on constantly, I must beg you to make so effectual a Complaint, as may not only produce a greater Conveniency and Ease to our Correspondence, but be likewise a Help to the whole Country; for the Grievance is now become so general, that the Grand-Jury at *Carmarthen*, have presented Mr. ONEALE, the Post-Master General, for his Misde-meanours in that Office, by which several trading Persons have been almost ruin'd; for their Letters either mis-carrying,

carrying, or coming too late to their hands, has put them to such streights in their Business, that they have been undone by it. The Persons who keep the Stages on the Roads complain they are not paid; if that be true, who can blame them for being remiss in their Duty? If it be objected that the *Milford Post* will not clear Charges, you may answer, that their own Neglect is the cause of it; for the Country is so discourag'd by the Uncertainty and Neglectfulness of the Post, that they chuse rather when they have any Business of Moment, to send a Messenger on purpose to *London*, than trust the Post with it; and this has been often observ'd to be even a more expeditious Method. We had rather pay more for our Letters, than be us'd at the scandalous rate we now are; and therefore, Sir, pray give Mr. **ONEALE** no rest, till this Abuse be thoroughly reform'd; and if you find no Redress from him,

him, I acquaint the Duke of YORK with it, who I am sure will not suffer us to be thus abus'd by his Officers, and whose Revenue suffers by it in the main. Pardon this Trouble on account of the earnest Desire I have of conversing with you with more certainty, while I am at such a distance from you, as will allow me no other way, which I yet hope will not be long; for ANTENOR has with great Acknowledgments of your Kindness assur'd me how generously you concern'd your self in his particular Affairs, and not only gave him your Advice, but promis'd your Assistance in procuring him so advantageous a Post, as might help to disengage his Estate, and countenance our Journey to a Place, which tho' it be my native one, is not so dear to me on that account, as because it will give me an Opportunity to converse with some few worthy Friends, of which number POLIARCHUS may be as
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sur'd he is one of the first. I have already taken the Freedom to tell you, how things stand with us in relation to our Estate, and how just a Desire I had to receive no Satisfaction myself, which must be prejudicial to my dear ANTENOR ; that therefore I could not propose to myself any way to recover the Happiness of your Company, unless I had a Prospect at the same time of doing him some Service ; for I should never be able to endure the inward Reproach of not having promoted his Interest to the utmost of my Power. His too generous and publick Spirit in the Service of his Country has been so destructive to his Fortune, that he cannot without utter Ruin, leave the little Concern he has here, unless he have a Prospect of such Advantages elsewhere, as may make amends for his Absence, and help him to get rid of his Incumbrances. Since therefore you and our other Friends give

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us reason to believe, that I may promote such an End; and since you are pleas'd to promise your generous Assistance, I refer my self wholly to you and my Brother PHILIPS, whom ANTENOR has desir'd to look out for something that might deserve our Endeavours to get it. My Lady CORK told me in *Dublin*, that she would not rest till she had got me to *London*, and would consult with you how to bring it about; ROSANIA too I'm sure will lend her helping hand, and be content to be troubled with me; so that if you three, together with my Brother, will consult of the Measures proper to be taken in this matter, I'm sure it may be effected. For you know nothing is desired here but such a Proposal as may reward and countenance the Journey, which must nevertheless have your Request to colour the undertaking it. ANTENOR is brim full of your Goodness and Friendship to him; he talks of nothing

thing with so much Content, and I can hear of nothing with more. But let me not forget to tell you before I conclude, that I have seen the second and fourth Acts of POMPEY that was translated by the Wits, and have read and consider'd them very impartially ; the Expressions are some of them great and noble, and the Verses smooth ; yet there is room in several places for an ordinary Critick to shew his Skill. But I cannot but be surpriz'd at the great Liberty they have taken in adding, omitting and altering the Original as they please themselves : This I take to be a Liberty not pardonable in Translators, and unbecoming the Modesty of that Attempt : For since the different ways of writing ought to be observ'd with their several Proprieties, this way of garbling Authors is fitter for a Paraphrase than a Translation ; but having assum'd so great a Licence, I wonder their Verses are any where either flat or rough,

rough, which you will observe them not seldom to be ; besides, their Rhymes are frequently very bad : but what chiefly disgusts me, is, that the Sense most commonly languishes through three or four Lines, and then ends in the middle of the fifth : For I am of opinion, that the Sense ought always to be confin'd to the Couplet, otherwise the Lines must needs be spiritless and dull : I wish you could procure me the third and fifth Acts, for I long to see them, especially the third, which I take to be the most noble and best written in the *French*. I am impatient likewise to hear your Thoughts of that Translation. You know me as far from Envy, as those Gentlemen are above it, and therefore will not impute the Freedom I have taken in these Remarks to that or any other Passion, but purely to my Opinion, and the Liberty I take of telling it to so intimate a Friend as POLIARCHUS ; for after all I really think

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think the worst of their Lines equal to the best in my Translation. If that Play had tir'd the Spectators as much as my Letter has you, they would have given it but a cold Reception; but you, I know, will pardon all the Troubles that you have created to your self, and encourag'd from her that is more than any body in the whole World, &c.

September 17. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET-

LETTER XXXVIII.

I Writ to you so much at large by a private hand last Week, that I have little now to add, not having heard from you since you writ to me from *Oxford*: However, had I nothing to say but my humble Request that I may constantly hear from you, that were Business enough to create you this Trouble, since I esteem that Happiness as the greatest Advantage I could procure for my self. I hope the Court's Progress is now ended, and that this will find you fix'd in Town, where you are like to be often mortify'd with Impertinences like this: and when you grow weary of them, you must tell me so; for without an absolute Prohibition I cannot resign a Privilege you have not only permitted, but

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even commanded me to use. My Lady TYRREL promis'd to tell you several things of CALANTHE, which were not fit to be written; I too have many Adventures to relate to you, which for the same Reason you cannot know till I see you. I have heard from ROSANIA since I did from you: She tells me that POLIARCHUS and she must lay their Heads together to contrive some way to see ORINDA; but I have written of this so fully in my last, that I will now only add, that though ANTENOR's Interest and my Desires to serve him be the chief Inducement; yet next to that, nothing makes me more covet that Happiness, than because it will enable me to assure you, without the Assistance of our Knavish Post, that I am eternally, &c.

September 25. 1663.

ORINDA.

LET-



LETTER XXXIX.

I Receiv'd one from you without a Date, but as your Quibble prophesy'd, it was deliver'd of its big Belly very safely: The Letters you knew not were from two of my Lord of CORK's Daughters, who by me ask your pardon for the Trouble they gave you of that Conveyance; which I know they will easily obtain, because it was at my Request they did it. And now, Sir, I must return you a thousand Acknowledgments for all your Concern both for myself and my ANTE-NOR; and assure you, there are not in the World two Persons who honour POLIARCHUS more than we, or whose Hearts are more zealously inclin'd to his Service. ANTE-NOR had the Commissions out according

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to his Desire, and is even confounded with the sense of your Goodness to him, which, I confess, pleases me extremely ; for valuing you so much as I do, and being oblig'd to you so much as I am, what should I do, if he did not help me to bear the Weight of so many Favours, which 'tis equally impossible for me, or both of us, either to forget or repay. He remembers well what you told him relating to his own Concerns, and has mention'd it several times with the highest Sense of Gratitude for your Friendship in those Expressions. He is now putting his shatter'd Affairs into some new Model, in order to leave his little All as clear as he found it ; and I believe it will require the best part of this Winter to reduce his long-neglect'd Business into such a Method, as will admit his Absence from hence. His late Indispositions and other Accidents, that threw him into some

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Remissness of his own Concerns, have brought them into such a Dis-order, as will not easily be regulated. Several successive Crosses had so unhing'd his Care and Industry, that his Enemies insulted over him, as if his Heart had been quite broken, and his Tenants and Servants us'd him as they pleas'd. But I thank God, I find him now quite another Person than when I came last from *London*. The good Fortune he had to carry the Election for you, was the first time that any of his Relations took notice, that he began to resume his former Heart and Resolution, which he has ever since preserv'd, by doing all things with his wonted Care and Courage ; so that I make no question but God has some Blessings in store for us, since he has been pleas'd to put him again into the Humour and Capacity of Busines, for which no Man is more naturally fit than himself. I know you will excuse

this familiar Narrative of our private Circumstances, since you cannot desire to be ignorant of the Affairs of Persons, in which your own Goodness and Generosity, as well as our Gratitude, have interested you so much. But the truth is, as the *Trojan* can tell you, I know not yet how it will be possible for **ANTENOR** so to unravel his entangled and confus'd Concerns, as to be able to come to Town this Winter, and I should be very unwilling to leave him; nor indeed would it appear well to the World, if we should part so soon, after having been so long asunder. Therefore I must stay till the Spring, and then, if his Affairs will not permit him, I know he will give me leave to go without him, if he can have from you, whom he so much honours, any Invitation and probable Persuasion that I may do him some Service there, that will reward and excuse the Journey. This was the reason

reason that in my last Letter I mention'd a Desire of having some particular thing fix'd on by the *Trojan*; for you know, that Particulars are always more effectual and persuasive than things said in general, and therefore may sooner induce him to permit my attempting them. I refer it wholly to you, and desire your opinion of it with your usual Friendship and Freedom. I have already assur'd him of the Generosity and Goodness of my Lady CORK and ROSANIA, and that they will be willing to assist you with their Interest in our behalf; so that it must be something much more difficult than any thing in question, that can resist the united Forces of you three. But I have dwelt so long on this Subject, that I fear I have quite tir'd you; yet you may be sure I would not have done it with any other Design or greater Ambition, than that I might tire you yet more with my Conversa-

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tion, which nevertheless I own to be so dull and tasteless, that you might justly decline giving your Vote, much more your Help, to have it again. But when you deny me either of them, I shall soon lose the Desire of coming to Town, having nothing more in my Eye by that Journey, than to recover the Opportunity of conversing with so excellent a Friend, who in all the Conditions and Places wherein I can be, may be assur'd that ORINDA is, &c.

OCTOBR. 2. 1663.



LET-

LETTER XL.

I Have since I came from *Ireland* receiv'd from you in all but five Letters, and have written six times to you ; and yet the *Trojan* tells me you have had but two, and are grown so stout that you will write no more : But pray where's the Justice of revenging on me the villainous Neglects of the Post ? Get but that Grievance once redress'd, and you will have no reason to complain of my Silence. Let me beg of you to set about it in earnest ; for since I am not like to see you till the Spring, it concerns me much to have the Post restor'd to its former certainty. My Lady **CORK** is now in Town, and I desire you to wait on her, and use your utmost Eloquence to express the Sense I have of the Merits of that noble Family, and of the infinite Obliga-

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tions they have laid upon me; and when you think it proper, give my Lady an occasion of expressing her self on the Subject I mention'd formerly, that she would join with you in assisting the Design of my coming to *London*, and discover if you can, whether she is pleas'd to preserve the generous Intentions of Kindness she so nobly assur'd me of in *Dublin*, as well in general, as in that particular of which I now speak. Our dear Friend *ROSANIA* too will, I believe, be in Town as soon as this Letter, and whatever you three resolve on, shall be at once my Prescription and Happiness. I have already in several of my former Letters told you all my Thoughts on this matter, and will not at this time repeat any thing but my Wishes, that once before I die, Providence will allow me to see *POLI-ARCHUS*, *ROSANIA*, and the noble Family I but now mention'd. This comes to you by a Foot-Post of ours, whose Return, I hope, will bring me an

an account of you; and if you can send me the third or fifth Act of the new POMPEY, it will much oblige me. The next I write shall give you my second Thoughts of the two Acts I have already, after a most diligent and strict perusal of them; but I would fain have your Sense of the whole, now you have seen it acted; for I am not to be biass'd or sway'd in my Opinion by the common Judgment of the Town; being of Mr. COWLEY's mind, that the Creatures of the Theatre are govern'd by Fortune, as well as all other things. PHILASTER, I hear, is in *London*, his Name, as HUDIBRAS says, being

*Register'd with Fame eternal,
In deathless Pages of diurnal.*

I expected to have heard from him e'er now. If you have TASSO's AMINTA, pray send it me to read: You may thank your self for encouraging by your own Commands
the

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the Confidence of this Request, after so many Favours of the same kind that I have receiv'd already: but how much soever I trespass on your Goodness, 'tis always with the inward Assurance, that I am to the greatest degree, &c.

Octob. 13. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET-



LETTER XLI.

YOUR Silence for a whole Month and more, troubles me so much, that I know not what to say to you, nor how to resolve whether this Misfortune be the Effect of your Unkindness, or the Injustice of the Post. 'Tis certain I have receiv'd but one Letter from you since your Return to *London*, and in that was enclos'd one from my Lady *ELIZABETH BOYLE* out of *Ireland*. Since that, I have written several to you, both by the Post and private Hands, but have never had the Satisfaction to know whether you receiv'd them or not. Sometimes I am melancholy enough to fancy that I gave you too much Trouble about our private Affairs, and us'd you with too much Familiarity for you to pardon; and that from hence proceeds this your

unusual Silence. If so, you may be assur'd that I have suffer'd enough by this dumb way of Punishment, and therefore let me intreat you to write now, even tho' it be to chide, rather than be silent any longer. To correspond with you, is so great an Advantage to me, that I shall not part with it upon easy Terms; and therefore you must downright forbid my importuning you, before I can learn so much good Manners: But I still hope that POLIARCHUS has Friendship enough for ORINDA to hold out against all her Weaknesses; and that he would never have given her such convincing Proofs of his being her Friend, if he had not intended to continue so for ever. I promise my self, therefore, that I shall hear again from you, and particularly desire your Answers to these Questions, Whether we shall have any Redress in our Post-Grievance? Whether you have seen the CORK Family, and how

ORINDA to POLIARCHUS. 183

how you like their Acquaintance?
But chiefly, whether you repent not
of your most obliging Concern for
one who merits your Goodness so
little, and trys it so much, as, &c.

13 Novemb. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET.



LETTER XLII.

I Purposely neglected to answer yours of the second of *November* by last Post, hoping that your Commands would inspire me with something worthy your Perusal; but I find upon Trial, that I am now grown so dull, so heavy; and, in a word, so good for nothing, that neither my Importunities, nor your Intercessions, will prevail with the Muses to be kind to me in any Attempt of the nature you prescribe. But because you shall see how great a Power all your Desires have over me, I am contented to expose my self, as you will find by the inclos'd Copy of Verses, to any Censure, rather than that of Disobedience. I know to whom I send them, and that you are so much my Friend as

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to conceal, or correct them so as to make them capable of Pardon, which now I am sure they are not. I leave them therefore wholly to your Mercy, of which you can give no greater an Instance, than by committing to the Flames a Paper, which, I fear, is past all Correction. And this I must injoin you to do, if any other Poem has been seen on the same Subject ; for then I am sure this would appear with as much Disgrace, as covers my poor Translation of POMPEY, since the Lustre of the other obscur'd it. But if no other Person has been before-hand with me, and you resolve to expose me, be pleas'd to make me address myself not as I do, but as I ought to do to so great and sacred a Person. I know how difficult it is to speak of Princes as we ought ; how much more difficult is it then for one born and bred in so rude and dark a Retreat as I have been, to accost them in such a manner as to deserve their Par-

Pardon? But to make the Muses talk impertinently in such a Presence, is what I blush to think on, and could never have had the Confidence to send the inclos'd Paper of Verses to any but POLIARCHUS, who has Skill and Judgment enough to refine and mend them; or if he think them not worth the Pains, is Friend enough to suppress them. All I desire is, that when you read this Poem, you will not condemn me for a Dulness, that you will find growing upon me; but consider, that my Absence from all the Conversation that can refine my Wit, the Employments of a Country Life, and the Uneasinesses of my Fortune, are able to blunt a much finer Pen than ever I was Mistress of. And indeed I find the Weights of my Misfortunes sink me down so low, that unless I am quickly restor'd to the refreshing Charms of your Company, I shall be past Recovery, and incapable of enjoying it.

I will therefore not despair, but
that my kinder Stars have yet re-
serv'd so much good Fortune in
store for me; which, if it ever
happens, I shall then speak better
Sense, and in all Respects have
more Pretence to the Honour of
subscribing my self, &c.

November 28. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET-



LETTER XLIII.

ON the twenty first instant I receiv'd yours of no Date; but if my Supposition be true, that 'twas written the fifteenth, the Post is now so honest as to bring us our Letters in six Days; pray God keep them in that good Mind. And now give me leave to quarrel with you heartily, for presenting the Copy of Verses to the Queen, and that too without making any Alteration in them, contrary to the Request I made you, when at the same time you knew very well that Mr. WALLER had employ'd his Muse on the same Subject. I protest I never writ any thing with more Distrust of my self, but am resolv'd to give you now a greater Proof of my Complaisance, than I did then of my Obe-

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Obedience, by altering my Judgment by yours, and rather believing it possible that I could say something in those Lines not unluckily, than that you could be so much mistaken as to believe so, if it had been altogether otherwise. And indeed Mr. WALLER has, it may be, contributed not a little to encourage me in this Vanity, by writing on the same Subject the worst Verses that ever fell from his Pen. I could be an outrageous Critick upon them, if I were not restrain'd by other Considerations: But sure he, who is so civil to the Ladies, had heard that I design'd such an Address, and contenting himself with having got so much the Advantage of me in POMPEY, was willing to yield me this Mate at Chess, and to write ill on purpose to keep me in Countenance. I remember I have been told that he once said, he would have given all his own Poems to have been the Author of that which

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which my Lady NEWCASTLE writ of a Stag: And that being tax'd for this Insincerity by one of his Friends, he answer'd, that he could do no less in Gallantry than be willing to devote all his own Papers to save the Reputation of a Lady, and keep her from the Disgrace of having written any thing so ill. Some such Repartee I expect he would make on this occasion; but I fear I have lost his Favour for ever, in having twice trod in his Steps by writing on Subjects he had chosen; and if the King decided this last so much to my Advantage, as you represent, I am confident Mr. WALLER will never forgive me his Misfortune, which really troubles me, for I should always be more proud of his Friendship, than of a great Applause: not that I am so mortify'd to this World as to be insensible of the infinite Honour their MAJESTYS have done me in receiving so very graciously that worth-

less Tribute from the humblest of their Subjects. No, I look on it with a Joy and Reverence next to that I have for the Divine Goodness : And as a Gentleman said lately,

*The People much approve
Those Priests that for 'em pray
to Gods they love.*

So you may be sure there is abundance of my Thanks and Gratitude due to you even for this single Act, this most generous way of laying me at their Majestys Feet, adorn'd with your Concern, and assisted with your Mediation to obtain such Favours from those Powers above, as I by that means have receiv'd. You and I still do what we ever did ; you continually oblige, and I always receive the Obligation ; and for ought I see it must ever be so : but 'tis not to every one that I would be thus oblig'd ; and as you have a certain

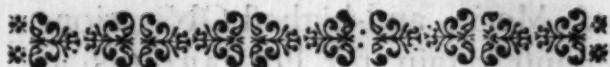
tain Right to do good to all the World, so you have a particular Ascendant over me, that makes me wear the Obligations you throw upon me as so many Ornaments, and grow proud of my Fetters. To add to the rest, I have this day receiv'd from you HUDIBRAS and AMINTA, which I am much pleas'd with and very thankful for ; and beg of you to believe, I have such a sense of all your Favours, as would be much injur'd if it were attempted to be express'd ; but yet is as impossible ever to be forgotten, as to be acknowledg'd by, &c.

24 Decemb. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET-



LETTER XLIV.

WERE your Letters written in another Hand, and subscrib'd by another Name, yet the Cheat would not pass on me, and I should know them to be yours ; for there is something so generous, so obliging, and so ingenious in their Stile, that no other Person can imitate it : Your last of the 26th of *December* particularly deserves this Character, and more Acknowledgments than 'tis possible for me to make, or you to receive ; unless you could look into my Heart, and there read my infinite and unspeakable Gratitude and Thankfulness for all your Favours, which are imprinted there in Characters so deep and indelible, that except I renounce all sense of the greatest

test Merit, and highest Obligations, I must retain for POLIARCHUS an immense and unchangeable Respect and Veneration: This it is that creates in me so longing a Desire to enjoy the sweets of his delightful Conversation, that 'tis to me no small Affliction not to be able yet to foresee when I may propose to my self the satisfaction of that Enjoyment. I find your Committee has met at last, and that you could not then pitch upon any thing to promote the Desire I have of being among you; and not only so, but methinks you speak as if there were something more in it than the only missing to find a present Expedient to that purpose. When I press'd to have you meet in a Committee, I did not expect a sudden Inspiration should fall upon you to direct you to something that should infallibly answer our Desires; but my meaning was, that if, when you came

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to consult together, you found your selves to have Indulgence enough for me to be willing to be troubled with my Company, you might be thenceforward a standing Committee to assist each other in furthering that Design as Opportunity should offer, or as I should see occasion to request it. But whether it be my Melancholy, or what other Reason I have for it I cannot tell, yet something there is that whispers me, that at your meeting you foresaw some greater Difficulty in that Affair than before; and whence that could proceed, I know not, unless you discover'd in one another an Indifference and Coldness towards me. This I desire to know, and particularly whether you found in my Lady CORK less Zeal and Willingness to oblige me than you expected, or than she has been often pleas'd to promise me: that indeed would be a great Affliction to

me, not so much on account of any Advantage I propose to make by means of her Interest, as for the Loss of her self; for I can never value outward Conveniences as I do Persons, and the Loss of a Friendship is to me the greatest of all Losses. Be pleas'd therefore to let me know freely in your next, whether there be any Ground for this Apprehension, which my own Unworthiness makes me apt to entertain, tho' I cannot do it without being, in some measure, injurious to her, who has so particularly own'd me, who commanded me to look on my self as always one of hers; who, of her self, without any hint of mine to that purpose, press'd my coming to *London* very earnestly; who asfurd me she would contrive with you how to compass it without any Inconvenience to my Affairs, and would not rest till it were effected. You will allow all this to be

be ground enough for my desiring you to discourse with her concerning it; but if after all I am so unfortunate as to have her grow cool in her obliging Purposes to me, I must, though with much Regret, submit to the Stroke; and confess I owe all her Goodness so intirely to her own Pleasure, and have so little Title to it on my own account, that she may justly resume her Bounty, and place it on a worthier Object. I am so uneasy till I know the Truth of this, that I beg you once more to put me out of my Pain by the very next Post: and if, as I hope, my Melancholy has deceiv'd me into this Fear, I will then tell you more concerning the other Affair, in which I should give you less Trouble, if ANTENOR's Business call'd him up to Town; but I cannot find he has the least Thoughts of it, unless he can be persuad'd that my

K 3 go-

going might be of advantage to his Interest. Now I am the un-fittest Person in the World to be an Instrument in that Persuasion, because it must imply an Opinion of my own Power and Capacity to serve him, which I have no Reason to believe I have; and if I should fail in an Attempt of that nature, I should make him more unhappy, and my self ridiculous. I verily believe we shall never do any thing for him, till we are in Town; yet how to propose the Journey to him I know not, unless either something be found that 'tis probable may be effected for him, or that the general Opinion of his Friends in Town concur to persuade, that things of that nature are snatch'd up before they can be heard of at this distance; and that 'tis likely an Attendance at the Fountain-Head may soon find out and procure something for him, that may deserve

deserve the Hazard, Time, and Pains ; and lastly, that 'twill be more prudent to resolve on that course, before the present hopes that are given me of an Interest and of being well receiv'd at Court, whether by Time, and are lost for want of laying hold on the Opportunity that now offers. If therefore betwixt this and next *March* no particular thing can be found out to encourage him, yet a general Vote of his Friends then, strengthen'd by the Opinion, Reasons, and Desire of **POLIARCHUS**, may very much incline him to venture on the Journey and Attempt ; but till that time draw near, I'll say no more of it. I must now inform you, that 'twas not Neglect or Reservedness, but meerly Forgetfulness, that made me conceal from you what I have begun to translate from the **HORACE** of Monsieur **CORNEILLE** ; if you will lay your Commands on me

200 LETTERS *from*

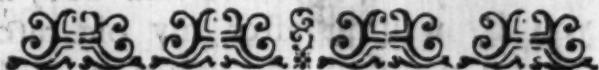
to send it you, I will be sure to obey you; and now the Post is become honest, I expect to hear weekly from you, which next to your Friendship it self, is the greatest Obligation you can lay upon, &c.

Jan. 8. 1664.

ORINDA.



LET.



LETTER XLV.

I AM so oblig'd to you for the generous and friendly Concern you take in the unfortunate Accident of the unworthy publishing of my foolish Rhymes, that I know not which way to express, much less to deserve the least part of so noble an Obligation. PHILASTER gave me a hint of this Misfortune last Post, and I immediately took an Opportunity of expressing to him the great, but just Affliction it was to me, and begg'd him to join with you in doing what I see your Friendship had urg'd you both to do without that Request; for which I now thank you, it being all that could be done to give me Ease: but the Smart of that Wound still remains, and hurts my Mind.

K 5

You

You may be assur'd I had obey'd you by writing after my old rate on the occasion you mention, had you not in your next Letter seem'd to have chang'd your Opinion, advising me rather to hasten to *London* and vindicate my self, by publishing a true Copy. Besides, I consider'd it would have been too airy a way of resenting such an Injury, and I could not be so soon reconcil'd to Verse, which has been so instrumental to afflict me, as to fall to it again already; however, if you still think it proper, I will resign my Judgment and Humour to yours, and try what I can do that way. Mean while I have sent you* inclos'd my true Thoughts on that Occasion in Prose, and have mix'd nothing else with it, to the end that you may, if you please, shew it to any body that suspects my Ignorance and Innocence of that

false

* The following Letter, which was sent inclos'd in this.

false Edition of my Verses; and I believe it will make a greater Impression on them, than if it were written in Rhyme: Besides, I am yet in too great a Passion to solicit the Muses, and think I have at this time more reason to rail at them than court them; only that they are very innocent of all I write, and I can blame nothing but my own Folly and Idleness for having expos'd me to this Unhappiness; but of this no more till I hear from you again. I must now tell you, that the Affliction I am in is very much reliev'd by the Assurances you give me of the continuance of my Lady CORK's Friendship to me, and that neither my Absence nor Unworthiness have robb'd me of her Esteem. And as I am of your Opinion, that my coming to Town may more probably effect something for ANTE-NOR, than my stay here; so I think it very adviseable to acquaint you,

the

the *Trojan* thinks he has found out something fit for me to attempt, and that is very honourable and may be compass'd. ANTEMOR too approves the Proposition, and begins to resolve upon my Journey, as soon as he can put his Affairs in a Posture for my settling things here, and my Accommodation there; but to quicken him in this, and confirm him in the other, I think it very necessary that in a Letter to him you should repeat the Assurances you have formerly given him, of your generous Friendship, and acquaint him that I ought to hasten to Town as soon as possible, in order to solicit for him the Affair the *Trojan* has found out; which you may likewise represent as an Advantage easy to be obtain'd, by promising him all the Assistance you have so often assur'd me of, and which he already doubts not but he shall receive from you. Such a Letter from you will be more

more prevalent with him, than the Persuasions of all the World besides, for he honours no Man so much as your self, nor with so much Justice. You see, Sir, how plain I am with you, and I hope you will by this Freedom measure the Friendship I have for you, and the Confidence I repose in you; for certainly I could never make this Request to any but your self, and yet I must make another to you, that will be little less confident; and that is, that if my Lady CORK continue her Resolution of writing to me, you would prevail with her, as from your self, not from me, to do it in one inclos'd in your next; and therein if she please to express her self after her accustom'd obliging manner, by assuring me of her Friendship, and giving her Opinion that my coming may be advantageous to my self, and will not be unacceptable to her, I will shew her Letter to

ANTENOR, who, I believe, will look on it as a new Motive for my Journey, and be highly oblig'd by it. Let me know what they say of me at Court and every where else, upon this last Accident, and whether the exposing all my Follies in this dreadful Shape has not frighted the whole World out of all their Esteem for me. I receiv'd last Night a most kind Letter from my Lord ORRERY, wherein he is so partial as to speak of my Translation of POMPEY with Preference to the other: you shall see what he writes when we meet next, which happy Moment I expect with the utmost Impatience; for to use the words of STEPHANO GUASTO, whose *Civili Conversationi* is a most excellent Book, and has often entertain'd me this Winter with great Delight, *You have render'd my Taste so delicate by the wonderful Charms of your Conversation, that all other Company seems to be dull and insipid.* You can-

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cannot therefore much blame me either for my Eagerness to regain that Happiness; or my Tediumness in conversing in this manner with a Person so much valu'd by all the World, and particularly by me to that infinite degree, that I can hardly find the way to that part of my Letter, that must assure you that I am, &c.

Jan. 29. 1663.

ORINDA.



LET-



LETTER XLVI.

IT IS well you chid me so much for endeavouring to express a part of the Sense I have of your Obligations; for while you go on in conferring them past all possibility of Acknowledgment, 'tis very convenient for me to be forbidden to attempt it. Your last Generosity in vindicating me from the unworthy Usage I have receiv'd from the Press at *London*, as much transcends all your former Favours, as the Injury done me by that Printer and Publisher surpasses all the Troubles that to my Remembrance I ever had: All I can say to you for

for it is only this, that you assert the Cause of an innocent, though a very unhappy Person, and that 'tis impossible for Malice it self to have printed those Rhymes, which you tell me are got a-broad so impudently, with so much Wrong and Abuse to them, as the very Publication of them at all, though never so correct, had been to me, who never writ a Line in my Life with Intention to have it printed; and am truly of my Lord FALKLAND's mind, when he says,

— *He Danger fear'd than Cen-
sure less,*

*Nor could be dread a Breach like
to the Press.*

You know me, Sir, to have been all along sufficiently distrustful of whatever my own want of Company and better Employment, or
the

the Commands of others have seduc'd me to write, and that I have rather endeavour'd never to have those Trifles seen at all, than that they should be expos'd to all the World in this impudent manner in which they now most unhappily are. But is there no Retreat can shield me from the Malice of this World? I thought that Rocks and Mountains might have hidden me, that 'twas free for all to beguile their Solitude with what harmless Thoughts they pleas'd, and that our Rivers, though they are babbling, would not have betray'd the Follies of impudent Thoughts that were produc'd on their Banks. But I am the only unfortunate Person who cannot so much as think in private, who must have all my Imaginations and idle Notions rifled and expos'd to play the Mountebank, and dance upon

on the Ropes to entertain the Rabble; to undergo all the Railery of the Wits, and all the Severity of the Wise; to be the Sport of some that can, and Derision of others, that cannot read a Verse. This is the most cruel Accident that could ever have befallen me, and has already made a proportionate Impression on me; for it has cost me a sharp Fit of Sickness since I heard it; and I believe would have been more fatal, but that I consider'd what a Champion I have in you, whose Credit in the World will gain me a belief with all the better sort of Persons, that I am so innocent of that wretched Artifice of a secret Consent, of which I fear I am suspected, that whoever would have brought me those Copies corrected and amended, and a thousand Pounds to have bought my

my Permission to print them, should not have obtained it. You know too besides, that tho' there are many things in this villainous Impression, which the Ignorance of what occasion'd them, and the Falseness of the Copies may represent very ridiculous and extravagant; yet I could give some account of them even to the severest C A T O : and sure they must be more abus'd than I can believe it possible for them to be, (for I have not yet seen the Book, nor can imagine what is in it) before they can be disguis'd in such a manner, as not to deserve the Character of these Lines of Sir EDWARD DERING in his Epilogue to POMPEY,

— No bolder Thought can
tax

Those Rhymes of Blemish to the
blushing Sex:

As

*As chaste the Lines, as harmless
is the Sense,
As the first Smiles of Infant In-
nocence.*

So that I hope there will be no need of justifying them to Virtue and Honour. And I am so little concern'd for the Reputation of writing Senfe, that provided the World will believe me wholly innocent of the least Knowledge, much more of any Conivance at this Publication, I will willingly compound never to trouble them with the true Copies, which nevertheless you advise me to do; though if you still judge it absolutely necessary to the Reparation of this Misfortune, and to the general Satisfaction, and if, as you tell me, all the rest of my Friends will press me to it, I shall resolve upon it with the same Reluctancy, that I would cut off

a Limb to save my Life. However, I hope you will satisfy all your Acquaintance of my Aversion to it, and did they know me as well as you do, that Apology were very unnecessary; for I am so far from expecting Applause on account of any thing I write, that I can scarce expect a Pardon: And sometimes I think that to make Verses is so much above my Reach, and a Diversion so unfit for the Sex to which I belong, that I am about to resolve against it for ever; and could I have recover'd those fugitive Papers that have escap'd my Hands, I had long since, I believe, made a Sacrifice of them all to the Flames. The truth is, I have always had an incorrigible Inclination to the Vanity of Rhyming, but intended the Effects of that Humour only for my own Amusement in a retir'd Life, and there-

therefore did not so much resist it as a wiser Woman would have done: But some of my dearest and best Friends having found my Ballads (for they deserve no better a Name) they made me so much believe they did not dislike them, that I was betray'd to permit some Copies to be taken for their Diversion; but this with so little Concern for them, that I have lost most of the Originals, which I suppose to be the cause of my present Misfortune; for some infernal Spirits or other have catch'd those Rags of Paper, and what the careless blotted Writing kept them from understanding, they have supply'd by Conjecture, till they have at length put them into the Shape wherein you saw them, or else I know not which way 'tis possible for them to have been collected, and so abominably printed as I hear they are. I believe too there

216 LETTERS *from*

there are some among them that are not mine, and thus I am not only injur'd in my own particular, but on the account likewise of those worthy Persons, who had then the ill luck to be of my Conversation, whose Names are without their leave expos'd in this Impression; so that there are but few things in the power of Fortune that could have afflicted me more than this treacherous Accident. To conclude, I know you so much my Friend, that I need not ask your pardon for making you this tedious Complaint, but I own 'tis a great Injustice to revenge my self thus on you for the Wrongs have been done me by others; and therefore will only tell you, that the sole Advantage I gain by this cruel News, is, that it has convinc'd me by dear Experience, that no Adversity can shake the Constancy of your

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your Friendship, and that in the worst Humour that ever I was in, I still am, &c.

Jan. 29. 1664.

ORINDA.





LETTER XLVII.

JUST now I receiv'd yours of the fifteenth, which brought me the welcome Assurance that you will still have me for your Valentine; an Honour I am most unwilling ever to lose, but was forc'd this Year to trust it to the Capriciousness of Fortune, whom I invok'd with so much Fervency, that once in my Life I found her in a good Humour; for she gave me to draw your Name amongst a dozen. Our Company afterwards drew Motto's, and I happen'd on one that so well describ'd you, that I began to cry Fortune, Mercy, that I had ever call'd her blind: 'twas this, *he dances well, and fights well*; I might well have added, *and obliges well too*; for certainly never Man did so more, or with

a

a better Grace. But what Thanks shall I return you for the great Concern you take for my Interest, and for the Assurances you give of it in your Letters to ANTENOR and myself? He is resolv'd to put his Fortune to the Trial by following your Advice, and hastening me to *London*, as soon as 'tis possible for him to accommodate me for the Journey. Next Post I will say more of it, mean while shall only tell you, that all your Persuasions would have been in vain, and could never have prevail'd with me to have undertaken that Attempt, were not the hopes I have of serving ANTENOR, and the pleasure I propose to my self in conversing with POLIARCHUS, the chief Motives that induce me to it. I am now at *Landshipping*, where there is a great deal of Company, who command my Attendance. I go home this Week, and then shall be more at leisure, to tell you many surprizing Adventures; but my

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time allowing me now to write but one Letter, 'twas not difficult for me to resolve to whom it should be ; for my Inclinations as well as Obligations equally carry me to assure you that I am, &c.

Feb. 21.

ORINDA.



LET-

LETTER XLVIII.

I Told you from *Landsbipping* I would write wondrous Matters to you when I came home, and you may now justly expect, not only in Performance of that Promise, but in Return of your last obliging Letter, that I should say much more to you, than my present haste will allow me to do: But when I have told you that this hurry is occasion'd by my beginning my Journey to *London*, I know you will the more easily forgive it, for you have too often discover'd a Willingness to be troubled with your Valentine's ill Company there, for me to suspect you will be sorry that the time now approaches when you will once more be tormented with her impertinent Conversation.

222 LETTERS *from*

But to make you support it the better, let me assure you, that the next Satisfaction I propose to my self after the Hopes of doing something for ANTENOR's Service, is to enjoy the excellent Company of some very few Friends, among whom POLIARCHUS may be assur'd he holds the chiefest Rank. Nor could I have thus long deny'd my self the Happiness of his excellent Conversation, would I have listen'd to the Dictates of my own Desires, that continually prompted me to purchase it by a Forgetfulness of my Duty to ANTENOR. But had I done this, I had not only lost my own inward Content, but forfeited that Friendship I should indeed very little deserve, if I could have hoped for it on such unworthy Terms. But ANTENOR is now so satisfy'd that my going may be for his Advantage, that he hastens me away as fast as he can, and I hope God will enable me to answer his

Ex-

Expectations, by making me an Instrument of doing him some handsome Service; which is the only Ambition I have in the World, and which I would purchase with the hazard of my Life. I am exceedingly oblig'd to my Lady CORK for rememb'ring me with so much Indulgence, for her great desire to be troubled with my Company; but above all, for her readiness to assist my Endeavours for ANTEMOR, which is the most generous Kindness can be done me; and I will never abuse the Goodness of those that offer it, by expecting or desiring any thing improper or unreasonable, and whereof I will not make you Judge and Confident, who have already engag'd yourself to be an Assistant. I am call'd away, and can only assure you, that to make you the highest and truest Expression of my Esteem and Friendship, I profess that I am more indebted to you on the Score of your own Merit, than

224 LETTERS from

than of my infinite Obligations to
you, though the latter have such a
Tie upon me, that nothing but the
former can make a greater Impres-
sion on the Soul of, &c.

Cardigan Priory,
Mar. 12. 1664.

ORINDA.



LET-



LETTER XLIX.

MY Brother has a very great Ambition to have so noble and worthy a Friend as your self responsible for the Christianity of a Son that God has bless'd him with since he saw you ; but he is much out of countenance to desire this Favour of you ; the more too, because his Wife's Fondness of his Name is so great, that she has engag'd him to call the Child by it. And it being also his Father's Name, it is thus become that of the Family. I have undertaken that you will pardon the rudeness of asking you to be Godfather without giving it your Name, which he and I would much rather do, were it not for an unavoidable Obligation to the contrary. If I am not mistaken

staken in your Goodness, be pleas'd to come hither this Afternoon a little before Three, where it will be privately christen'd, and where you shall find, &c.

May 17. 1664.

ORINDA.

F I N I S.



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